BAMBOO COMICS

なごみクラブ。

Nagomi Club

遠藤淑子

Toshiko Endo

1

TAKESHOBO

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NAGOMI CLUB

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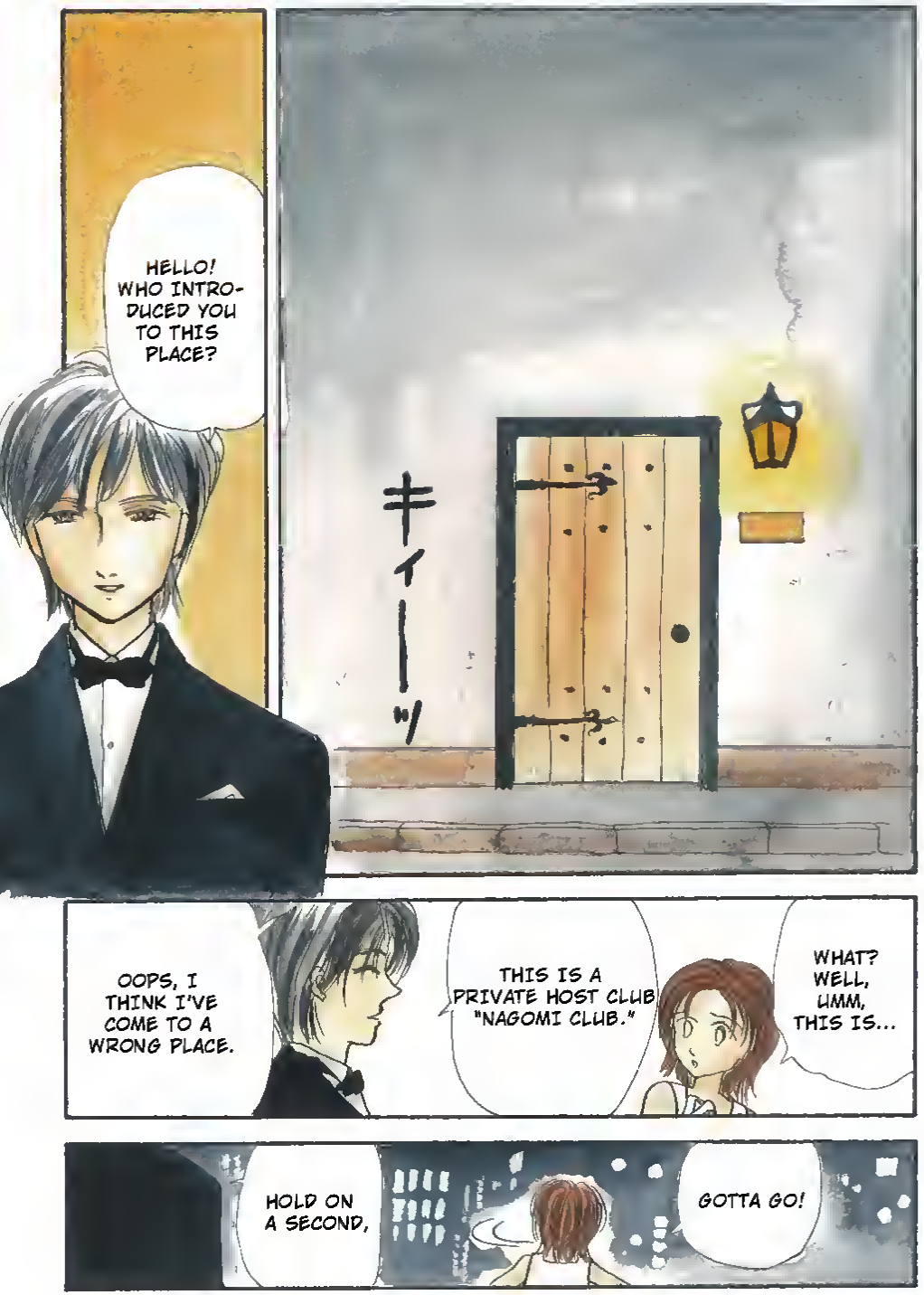
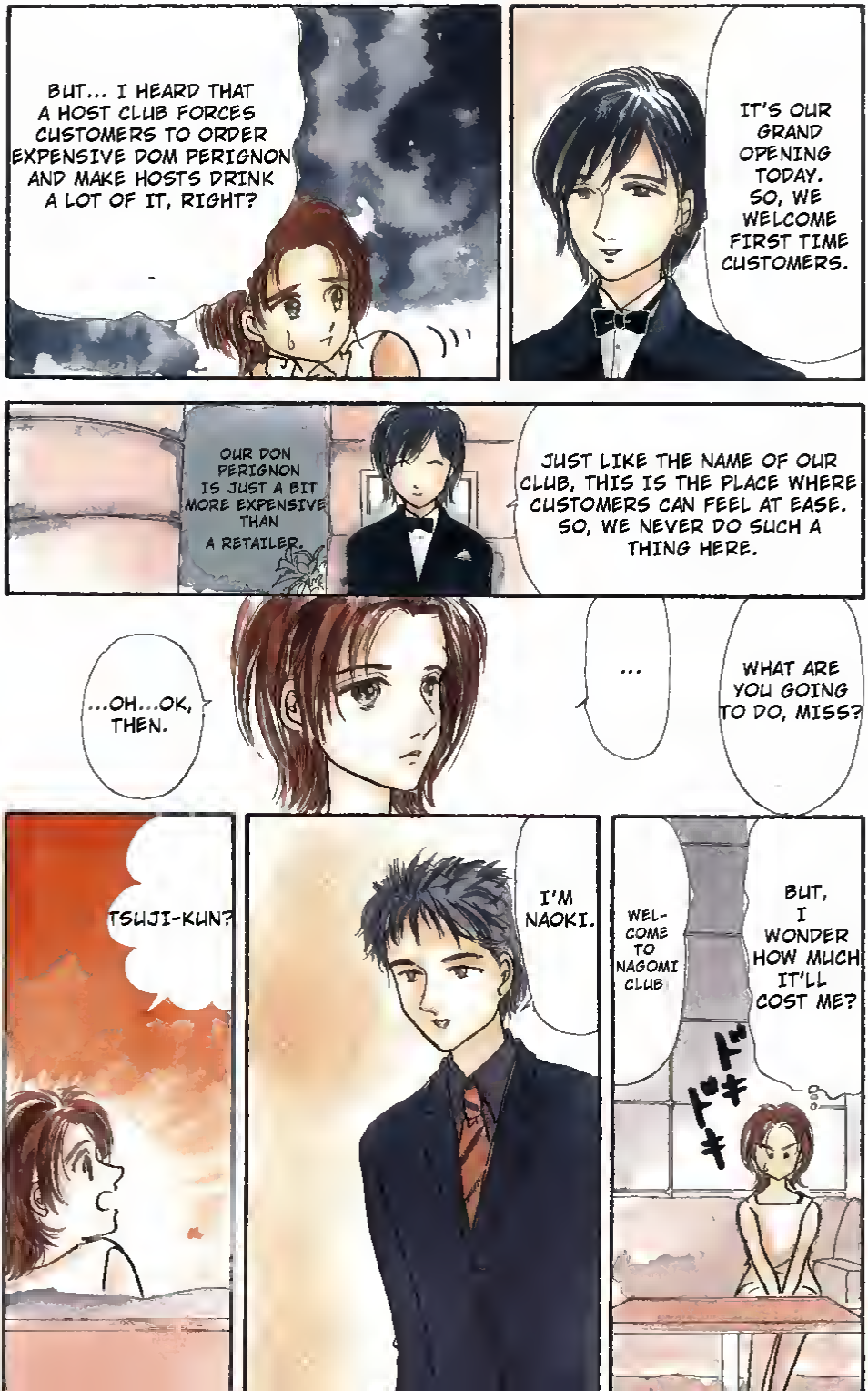
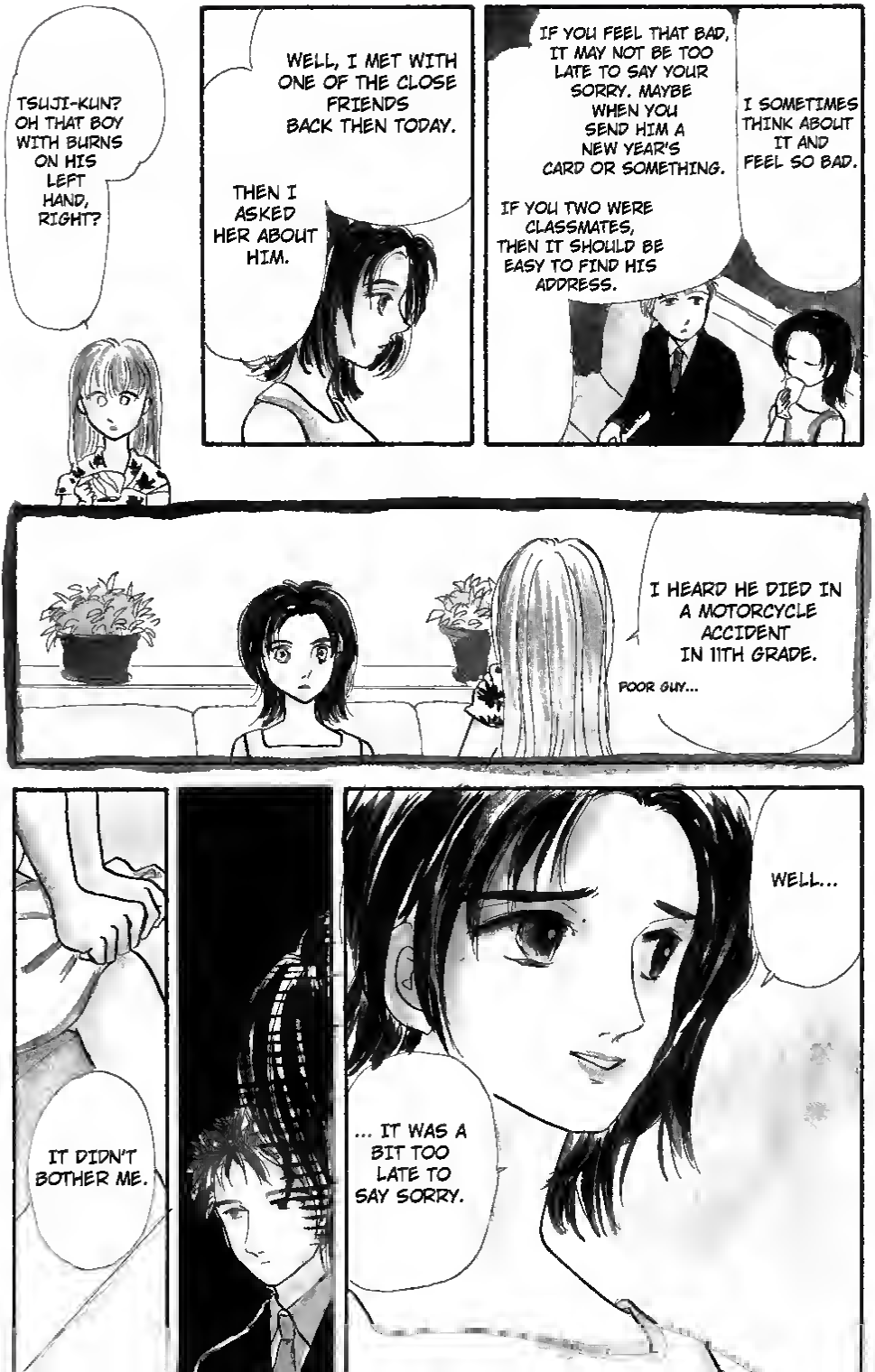

HELLO! WHO INTRODUCED YOU TO THIS PLACE?
キィーッ
OOPS, I THINK I'VE COME TO A WRONG PLACE.
THIS IS A PRIVATE HOST CLUB "NAGOMI CLUB."
WHAT? WELL, UMM, THIS IS...
HOLD ON A SECOND,
GOTTA GO!


BUT... I HEARD THAT A HOST CLUB FORCES CUSTOMERS TO ORDER EXPENSIVE DOM PERIGNON AND MAKE HOSTS DRINK A LOT OF IT, RIGHT?
IT'S OUR GRAND OPENING TODAY. SO, WE WELCOME FIRST TIME CUSTOMERS.
OUR DON PERIGNON IS JUST A BIT MORE EXPENSIVE THAN A RETAILER.
JUST LIKE THE NAME OF OUR CLUB, THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE CUSTOMERS CAN FEEL AT EASE. SO, WE NEVER DO SUCH A THING HERE.
...OH...OK, THEN.
...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MISS?
TSUJI-KUN?
I'M NAOKI.
WEL-COME TO NAGOMI CLUB
BUT, I WONDER HOW MUCH IT'LL COST ME?
ドキドキ

IT'S RYOKO.
WHAT IS YOUR FIRST NAME?
OK, RYOKO SAN.
AGAIN? PEOPLE TELL ME THAT ALL THE TIME. DO I LOOK THAT FAMILIAR?
I'M SORRY. YOU LOOKED A LOT LIKE A PERSON I KNOW.
ME? NO, MY REAL NAME IS FUKU-SHIMA.
OH...
YOU,BOYS!
5年3組
HE WAS JUST A NORMAL KID. HE WAS NEVER POPULAR OR BULLIED.
ALL YOU DID WAS TO TIDY UP THE DESKS!
IT'S BEEN DONE!
WAIT A SEC. YOU GUYS ARE DITCHING YOUR TURN TO CLEAN THE CLASSROOM?
OTHER BOYS JUST IGNORED US. BUT TSUJI-KUN ALWAYS STAYED.
しぶ
しぶ
TSUJI-KUN, ARE YOU TRYING TO SNEAK OUT, TOO?
I'LL TELL ON YOU GUYS TOMOR-ROW!
そー
THEN, IS HE YOUR FIRST LOVE?
NO, NOT LIKE THAT. HE WAS MY CLASS-MATE WHEN I WAS IN 5TH GRADE.
ARE YOU AN OFFI-CE WORK-ER?
YAP.
SO. THE DUDE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME IS YOUR EX?
OH, NO, NO.

WE KNEW IT WAS WRONG TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST SOMEONE, CUZ' WE WE 5TH GRADERS. BUT IT WAS SCARY TO SEE THE BURNS UP CLOSE.
TSUJI-KUN HAD BIG BURNS ON HIS LEFT HAND AND ARM.
花村
NO...
ヒソ
I DON'T WANNA BE NEXT TO TSUJI-KUN.
ヒソ
BUT...
ヒソ
I DON'T, EITHER!
WHEN WE WERE PRACTICING FOR THE ATHLETIC MEET...
JOIN HANDS IN A CIRCLE!
ガシ
辻
花村
RAISE YOUR ARMS UP WHILE HOLDING HANDS!
YOU ARE WRONG!
YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO HOLD HIS HAND!
RYOKO-CHAN, YOU LIKE TSUJI-KUN!
I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE, YOU LIKE TSUJI-KUN!

STOP IT! HE IS DISGUSTING!
TSUJI-KUN MAY LIKE YOU, TOO, RYOKO-CHAN.
IT WAS JUST A PRACTICE FOR THE ATHLETE MEET!
TOTALLY! TSUJI-KUN LISTENS TO YOU, WHEN YOU TELL HIM TO STAY AND CLEAN THE CLASSROOM.
RYOKO-CHAN, HE IS RIGHT BEHIND YOU...
I SHOULD HAVE APOLOGIZED RIGHT AWAY...
BUT I COULDN'T DO THAT.
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE TURNED AROUND AND SAID "I WAS KIDDING. SORRY!" SMILING AT HIM. THAT WAS ALL I HAD TO DO...
TSUJI-KUN DIDN'T ACT ANY DIFFERENTLY AFTER THAT.
AND WE WEREN'T THAT CLOSE, ANYWAY.
WE WERE PLACED IN DIFFERENT CLASSROOMS. AFTER THAT, WE WENT TO DIFFERENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS. SO, WE BASICALLY NEVER SAW EACH OTHER.

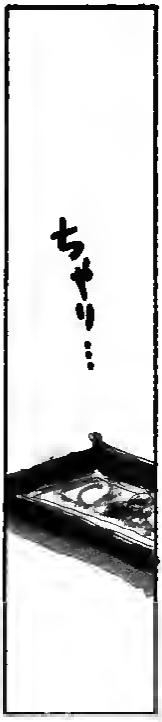

TSUJI-KUN? OH THAT BOY WITH BURNS ON HIS LEFT HAND, RIGHT?
WELL, I MET WITH ONE OF THE CLOSE FRIENDS BACK THEN TODAY.
THEN I ASKED HER ABOUT HIM.
I SOMETIMES THINK ABOUT IT AND FEEL SO BAD.
IF YOU FEEL THAT BAD, IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE TO SAY YOUR SORRY. MAYBE WHEN YOU SEND HIM A NEW YEAR'S CARD OR SOMETHING.
IF YOU TWO WERE CLASSMATES, THEN IT SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND HIS ADDRESS.
I HEARD HE DIED IN A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT IN 11TH GRADE.
POOR GUY...
IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME.
WELL...
... IT WAS A BIT TOO LATE TO SAY SORRY.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT IT, AT ALL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BUT YOU ARE NOT TSUJI-KUN.
BUT IF I LOOK LIKE HIM, MAYBE THERE IS SOME KIND OF CONNECTION.
SO, ON BEHALF OF HIM, LET ME SAY...

I AM SORRY.

WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR NEXT VISIT.
パタン

THANK YOU FOR COMING.
PLEASE COME AGAIN.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Nogomi Club no 2

WHITE LADY IS A DRY GIN BASED COCKTAIL.
SHAKING THE MIX MAKES IT TURN WHITE. THEN POUR IT INTO A CHILLED GLASS.
DRINK IT UP BEFORE THE WHITE COLOR DISAPPEARS.
PRIVATE HOST CLUB "NAGOMI CLUB"
HEY, MANAGER.
I ALWAYS SEE THIS COCKTAIL ON THE COUNTER.
BUT NOBODY ORDERS IT, RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT?

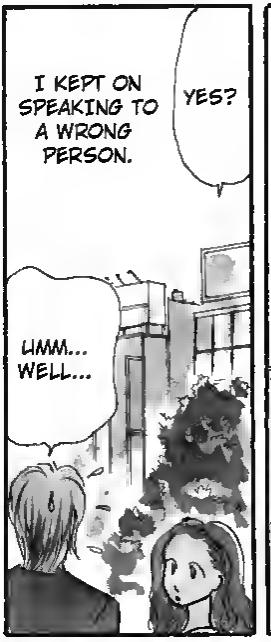
YES, SOMEONE ORDERED IT.
?
THAT WAS WHEN I JUST STARTED WORKING AT THE HOST CLUB.
HEY, SHO!
HIS OLD NICK-NAME
GO AHEAD AND HELP OUT RYUSEI AT TABLE FIVE.
TABLE FIVE.
OH, THAT'S KAWAMO-TO-SAN.
SURE.
MIKI WAKAMOTO USED TO BE A CABARET CLUB GIRL, AND MADE A FORTUNE BY SELLING STOCKS. AFTER THAT, SHE RAN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS,
HER PHOTOS WERE PRINTED IN A MAGAZINE, TOO.
AND BECAME FAMOUS. OFTEN SHE WAS INTERVIEWED BY TV STATIONS.
WELCOME TO OUR CLUB! I'M SHO.
RYUSEI IS COMING SOON, TOO.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?
SHE WAS A VERY SPECIAL CUSTOMER, WHO SPENT 1M YEN OVER NIGHT.
WELL...
SHE SEEMS A BIT DIFFERENT THAN USUAL.
USUALLY...
"BRING ME 10 BOTTLES OF DOM PERIGNON!

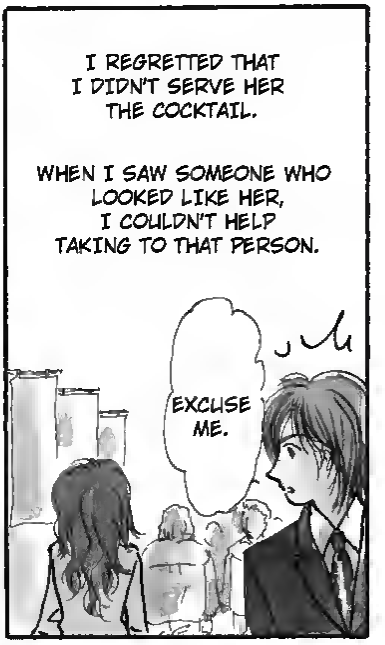
I FEEL LIKE HAVING A COCKTAIL GIVE ME WHITE LADY.
WHAT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT THE CLUB DIDN'T HAVE A BARTENDER. FOR A COCKTAIL ORDER, WE USED READY-MADE COCKTAILS TO HIDE IT.
WELL...
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE IS A COCKTAIL CALLED WHITE LADY
AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, MIKI-CHAN!
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DRINK? HAVE YOU ORDERED, ALREADY?
SHE WANTS WHITE LADY.
I'M RYUSEI, NO. 1 HOST HERE.
WHAT? A COCKTAIL?
YOU ARE NOT GONNA ORDER A BOTTLE TONIGHT?
UMMM. WELL, ALRIGHT. FINE.
YAY! THANK YOU, MIKI-CHAN!
ALRIGHT LET'S MAKE A TOAST WITH CHAMPAIGN!
...
カクテル事典
WHAT IS WHITE CURACAO?
HOW TO MAKE WHITE LADY...
DRY GIN, LEMON JUICE, AND WHITE CURACAO.

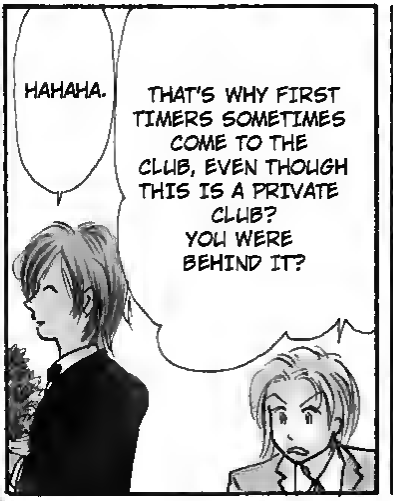
WHAT? SERIOUSLY? WHY?
ALL OF HER BUSINESSES WENT BANKRUPT.
DID YOU WATCH THE NEWS??
MIKI KAWAMOTO'S COMPANY WENT UNDER!
WHAT ARE YOU READING, SHO?
"COCKTAIL ENCYCLOPEDIA"?
YOU WANNA BECOME A BARTENDER?
DON'T EVEN DARE. YOU CAN MAKE MORE MONEY BY WORKING AS A HOST.
SHE WAS DECEIVING PEOPLE BY SELLING UNPROFITABLE STOCKS, SAYING THEY WERE PROFITABLE.
IS SHE GONNA GET ARRESTED?
DAMN IT. DOES SHE OWE US MONEY?
GO CHECK IT, RIGHT NOW.
I WANT TO DRINK
WHITE LADY.
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WANTED WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE MENU. MAYBE THE COCKTAIL WOULD BRING BACK SOME KIND OF MEMORY?
HER BUSINESSES WERE ALL OVER THEN.

SHE MIGHT HAVE FELT BETTER EVEN A LITTLE.
IF WE HAD MADE THE COCKTAIL FOR HER THAT NIGHT,

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A WEIRD PERSON.
AND SHE MAY NOT EVEN REMEMBER YOU.


I KEPT ON SPEAKING TO A WRONG PERSON.
YES?
UMM... WELL...

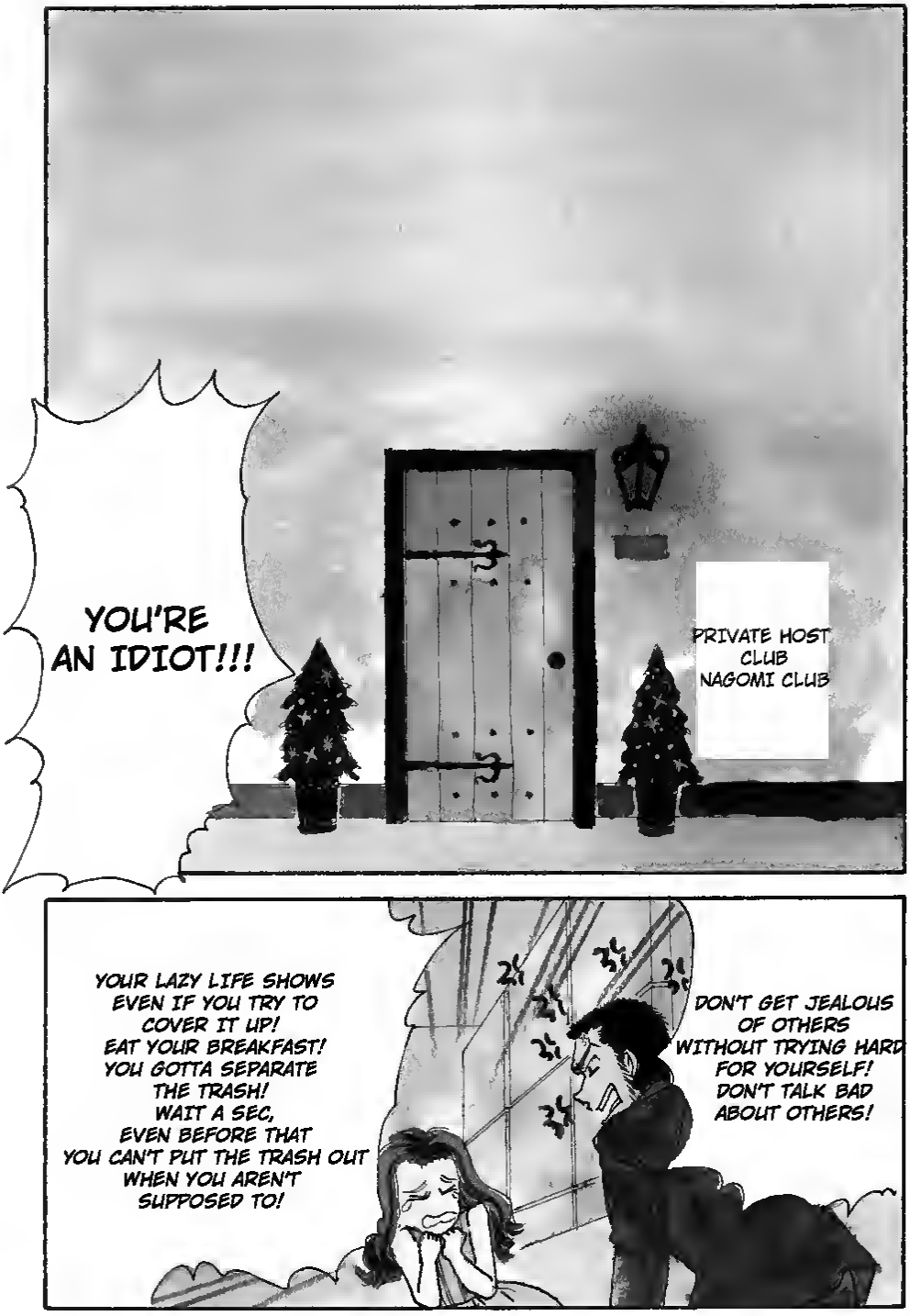

I REGRETTED THAT I DIDN'T SERVE HER THE COCKTAIL.
WHEN I SAW SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE HER, I COULDN'T HELP TAKING TO THAT PERSON.
EXCUSE ME.

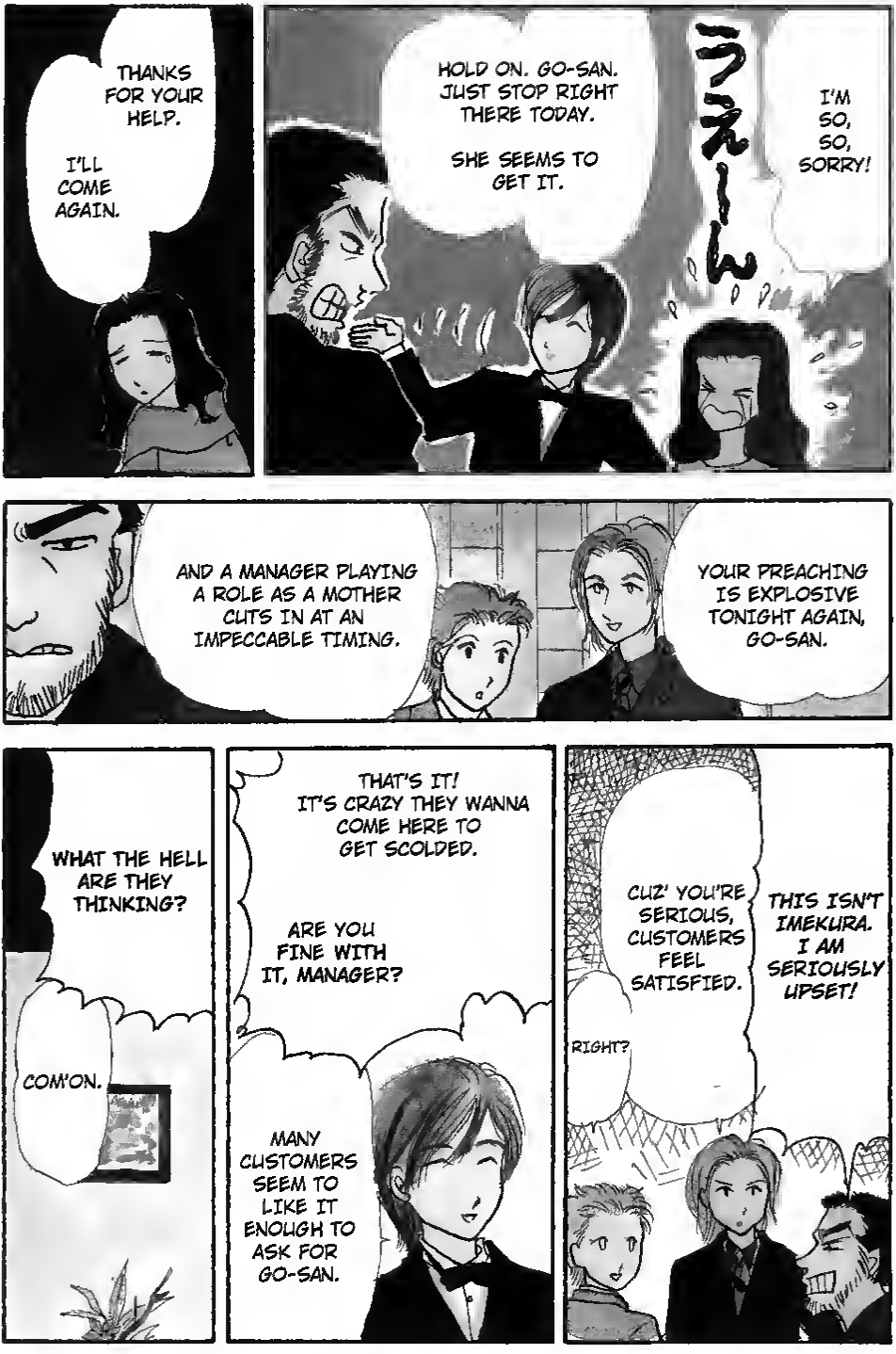

HAHAHA.
THAT'S WHY FIRST TIMERS SOMETIMES COME TO THE CLUB, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A PRIVATE CLUB? YOU WERE BEHIND IT?

YEAH, THAT'S WHY I MADE SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO HIDE MY MOTIVE.
ポケットティッシュ
なごみクラブ

HERE IT IS. PLEASE TAKE THIS.
WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS...
HERE IS A GRAND OPENING SPECIAL.
WHAT?
SHOOT, ANOTHER WRONG PERSON.
HI, EXCUSE ME.
!!!
WOW.
HOST CLUB.
WHAT IS IT?
COME BY OUR HOST CLUB.
YES, PLEASE
WITH YOUR MOST FAVORITE COCKTAIL.
WE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU

Nagomi Club no.3


YOU'RE AN IDIOT!!!
PRIVATE HOST CLUB NAGOMI CLUB
YOUR LAZY LIFE SHOWS EVEN IF YOU TRY TO COVER IT UP! EAT YOUR BREAKFAST! YOU GOTTA SEPARATE THE TRASH! WAIT A SEC, EVEN BEFORE THAT YOU CAN'T PUT THE TRASH OUT WHEN YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO!
DON'T GET JEALOUS OF OTHERS WITHOUT TRYING HARD FOR YOURSELF! DON'T TALK BAD ABOUT OTHERS!

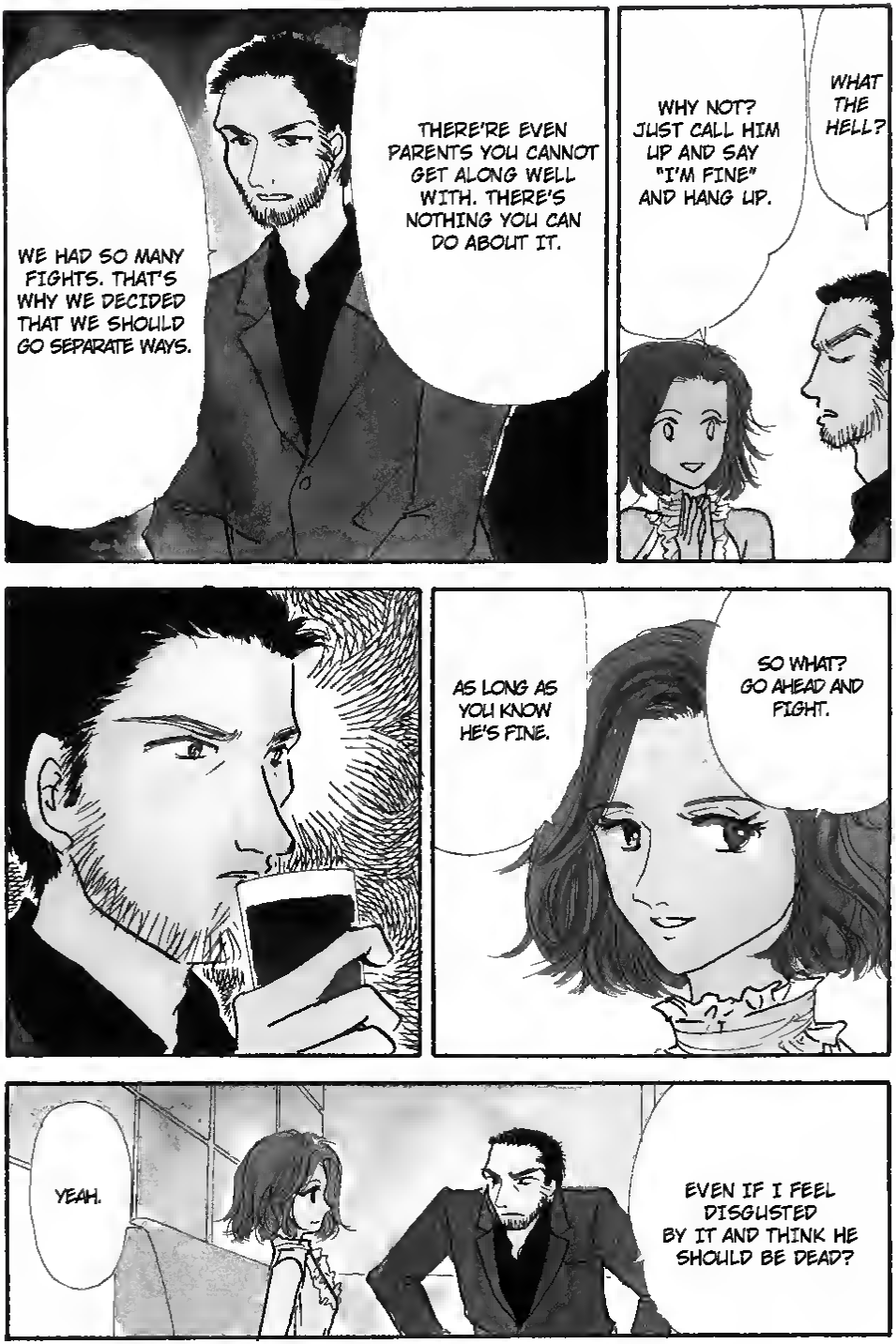

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
I'LL COME AGAIN.
HOLD ON. GO-SAN. JUST STOP RIGHT THERE TODAY.
SHE SEEMS TO GET IT.
ラァ～ン
I'M SO, SO, SORRY!
AND A MANAGER PLAYING A ROLE AS A MOTHER CUTS IN AT AN IMPECCABLE TIMING.
YOUR PREACHING IS EXPLOSIVE TONIGHT AGAIN, GO-SAN.
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY THINKING?
COM'ON.
THAT'S IT! IT'S CRAZY THEY WANNA COME HERE TO GET SCOLDED.
ARE YOU FINE WITH IT, MANAGER?
MANY CUSTOMERS SEEM TO LIKE IT ENOUGH TO ASK FOR GO-SAN.
CUZ' YOU'RE SERIOUS, CUSTOMERS FEEL SATISFIED.
RIGHT?
THIS ISN'T IMEKURA. I AM SERIOUSLY UPSET!

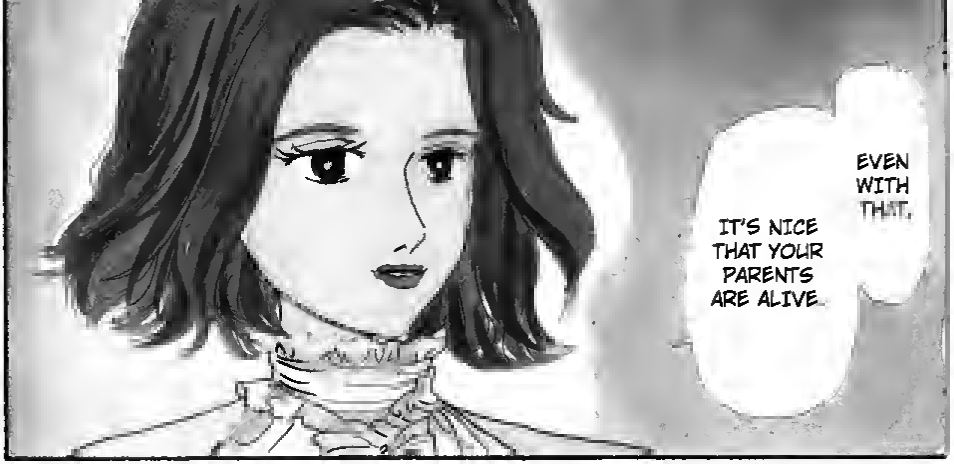
...
GO-SAN, THERE'S A CUSTOMER FOR YA.
LIKE THIS?
WELCOME TO CLUB NAGOMI. YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL AGAIN, TONIGHT.
AN IDEAL HOST WOULD BE LIKE...
IF YOU WANNA TREAT CUSTOMERS THAT WAY, GO AHEAD.
WE HAVE NO MANUAL HERE
GO-SAN, WHO LOOKS OLD,
ACTUALLY HE IS NOT THAT OLD.
UMM
I SCOLD YOU FOR THE SAME OL' STUFF EVERY TIME. DO YOU REALLY GET THE POINT?
AHH, YEAH, I DO. BUT, I JUST CANNOT PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.
HI, THERE! I AM HERE AGAIN!
HE TRIED A NEW WAY.
THANK YOU FOR COMING, NITTA-SAMA.
BLAH BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH
BLAH
WELL, IT WAS IMPOSSI-BLE.
I'M SO, SORRY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

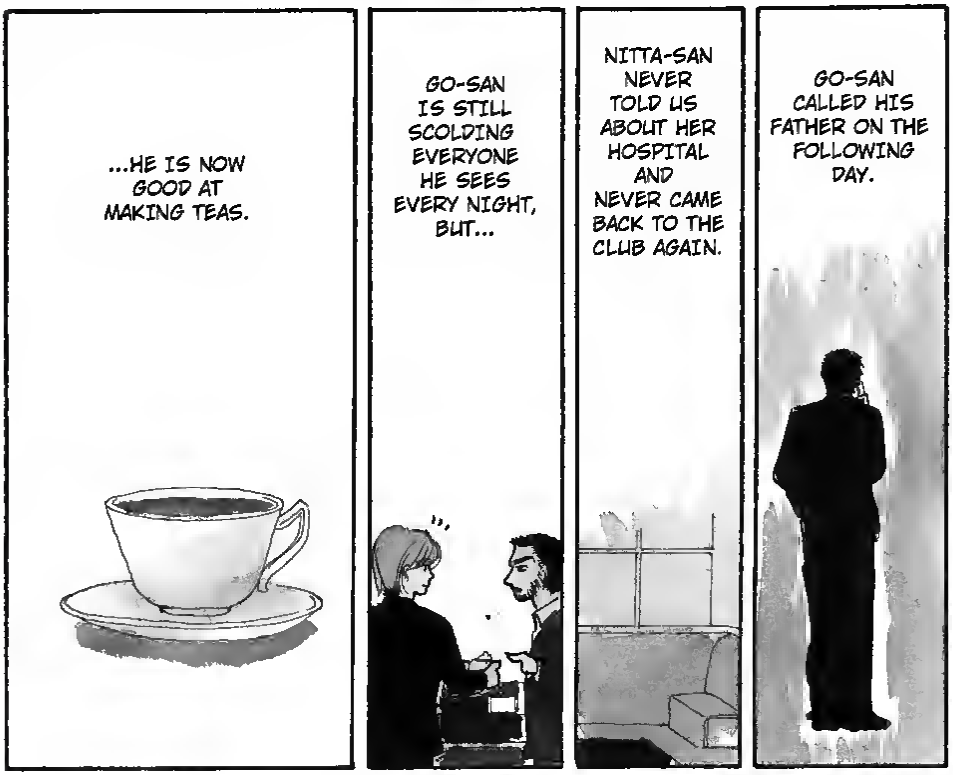
OH, ARE YOU A BIT MOVED?
UMMM.
DON'T SAY THAT. MY DAD'S GONE. I WANT SOMEONE WHO CAN SCOLD ME...
DON'T COME HERE AGAIN!
WE AREN'T AN IMEKURA...
REGULARS KNOW HOW TO PLAY THIS GAME, HUH?
THAT'S NOT NICE!
SHUT UP! EVEN IF YOUR FATHER WAS STILL ALIVE, YOU'D END UP RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME AFTER BEING SCOLDED.
QUARREL IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM FOR 8 YEARS NOW.
AND YOU REALIZE THAT THE WAY YOU SCOLD SOMEONE RESEMBLES YOUR DAD AND FEEL SURPRISED?
GO-SAN, DID YOU FIGHT A LOT WITH YOUR DAD?
NO IDEA.
CERTAINLY. WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SCOLDS YOU, YOU DON'T GET OFFENDED. BUT, WHEN YOUR PARENT SAYS SOMETHING TO YOU, YOU GET UPSET.

WHAT?? YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO SCOLD ANYONE!
WELL... UMMM...
UMM...
NAGOMI CLUB RULES
1. A HOST IS NOT ALLOWED TO REVEAL HIS PRIVATE LIFE TO CUSTOMERS.
OOPS...
REALLY?
ARE YOU OK?
NITTA-SAN?
OUCH!
MY STOMACH HURTS...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE LOOKING PALE!
T, THAT'S OK. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
MANAGER! CALL AN AMBULANCE!

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING SOME TEA.
YOU CREATED A COMMOTION HERE AND WE TOOK YOU TO THE HOSPITAL LAST NIGHT! YOU ARE HERE AGAIN TO DRINK?
HI, THERE!
WELL, I'LL BE HOSPITALIZED FOR A SURGERY NEXT WEEK.
HERE'S YOUR TEA.
HOW ARE YOU?
LAST NIGHT, I PUT YOU GUYS THROUGH TROUBLE. SO WANTED TO LET YOU GUYS KNOW.
THIS TEA TASTES GOOD!
WHAT?
THAT BOTHERS ME SO MUCH THAT I CANNOT FOCUS ON THE SURGERY.
YOU SAID YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO HIM FOR 8 YEARS, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?
THAT'S NICE. BUT INSTEAD OF THAT, CALL YOUR DAD, GO-SAN.
WHERE'S YOUR HOSPITAL? I'LL COME SEE YOU.


WE HAD SO MANY FIGHTS. THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD GO SEPARATE WAYS.
THERE'RE EVEN PARENTS YOU CANNOT GET ALONG WELL WITH. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
WHY NOT? JUST CALL HIM UP AND SAY "I'M FINE" AND HANG UP.
WHAT THE HELL?
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW HE'S FINE.
SO WHAT? GO AHEAD AND FIGHT.
YEAH.
EVEN IF I FEEL DISGUSTED BY IT AND THINK HE SHOULD BE DEAD?


EVEN WITH THAT,
IT'S NICE THAT YOUR PARENTS ARE ALIVE.


...HE IS NOW GOOD AT MAKING TEAS.
GO-SAN IS STILL SCOLDING EVERYONE HE SEES EVERY NIGHT, BUT...
NITTA-SAN NEVER TOLD US ABOUT HER HOSPITAL AND NEVER CAME BACK TO THE CLUB AGAIN.
GO-SAN CALLED HIS FATHER ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

Nagomi Club no 4

!!!
WELCOME BACK, INOUE-SAMA.
PRIVATE HOST CLUB "NAGOMI CLUB"
GOOD EVENING.
I'M HERE AGAIN.

I HEARD INOUE-SAN IS QUITE WEALTHY. BUT, SHE LIVES ON HER OWN AND HAS NO CHILDREN.
SHE FREQUENTS THE CLUB, SAYING IT FEELS LIKE SHE IS TAKING WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN.
WELCOME BACK, GRANNY!
GOOD EVENING, TORU-KUN.
TORU-KUN. CALL YOUR CUSTOMERS BY THEIR NAMES.
OH, THAT'S FINE. THAT'S FINE.
SHE ALWAYS ORDERS A SCOTCH COCKTAIL.
THE LIQUOR USED IN THIS COCKTAIL WAS FAVORED BY HUMPHREY DEFOREST "BOGIE" BOGART.
WHO'S IT? A SOCCER PLAYER?
HAHAHA
AND SHE GOES HOME WHEN THE ICE STARTS TO MELT.
I HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME. THANK YOU.
WHEN SHE'S HERE, SHE LOOKS SO HAPPY AND THAT'S JUST GREAT...
..WHEN SHE LEAVES AFTER PAYING, SHE LOOKS VERY LONELY.
WELL, YOU DON'T PAY A REAL GRANDCHILD, AFTER COMING TO SEE HIM.
IS THAT RIGHT?

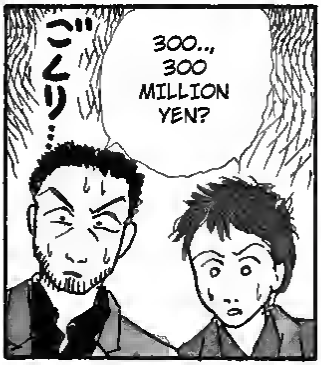
WELCOME BACK, GRANNY!
I'M HERE AGAIN!
IF I LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT, I FEEL A BIT BETTER.
CERTAINLY.
GRANDPARENTS ALWAYS TRY TO GET GRANDCHILDREN'S ATTENTION BY GIVING THEM ALLOWANCES.
ISN'T THE SAME THING?
HAHAHA.
UMMM, IT WAS A BLACK AND WHITE MOVIE.
HOW DID YOU LIKE IT?
I SAW THE MOVIE, CASABLANCA.
MY NAME IS KIDO. I'M AN ATTORNEY OF MS. REIKO INOUE.
...BECAME TRUE.
SHE PASSED AWAY AT THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF PNEUMONIA LAST MONTH.
SOMETHING THAT CAME TO EVERYONE'S MIND...
...
...
SHE IS AN OLD LADY. MAYBE SHE'S BEEN ILL..
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE NOW.
INOUE-SAN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT...

FOR ME?
THE REASON WHY I'M HERE TODAY IS FOR A WILL. HER FAMILY GOT TOGETHER YESTERDAY TO READ HER WILL. THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO DELIVER TO TORU-SAMA AT NAGOMI CLUB.
...
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT. WE WERE ALL CONCERNED ABOUT HER.
!!!
HER WILL SAYS THAT AFTER DEDUCTING ALL EXPENSES, THE REST OF HER BEQUEST WILL GO TO TORU-SAMA
ABOUT THIS MUCH.
HOW MUCH ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?
INOUE-SAN WAS RICH, WASN'T SHE?
GOOD JOB, TORU!

WOW! YOU CAN BUY A CAR WITH THAT KIND OF MONEY!
あわ
あわ
3.., 3 MILLION YEN!?

NO, NO. GO HIGHER.
3,.. 30... 30 MILLION YEN?
NO, HIGHER THAN THAT.

トオル
TORU!!
C'MON. YOU DON'T DIE, EITHER!!
W...
WHY ME?
ハア
ハア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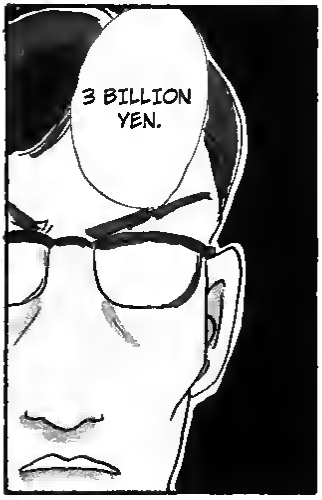
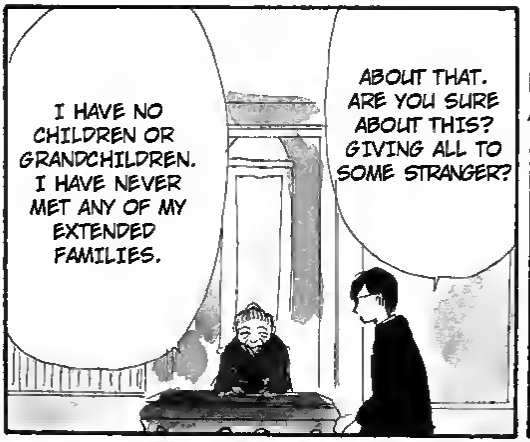
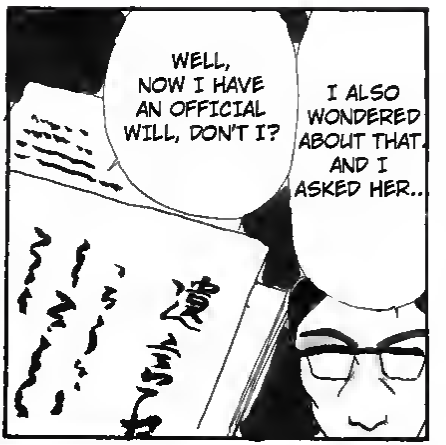
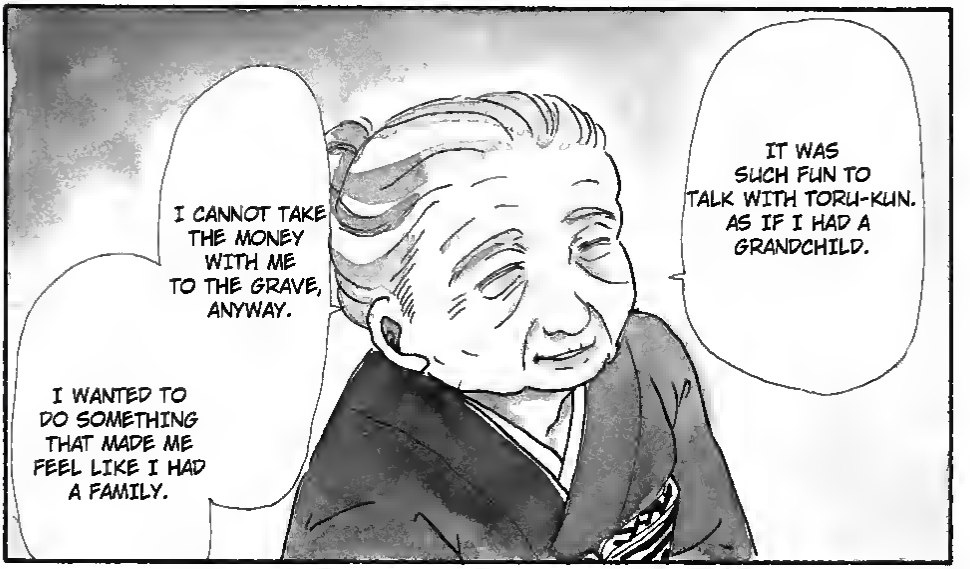
300.., 300 MILLION YEN?


3 BILLION YEN.


I HAVE NO CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN. I HAVE NEVER MET ANY OF MY EXTENDED FAMILIES.
ABOUT THAT. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? GIVING ALL TO SOME STRANGER?

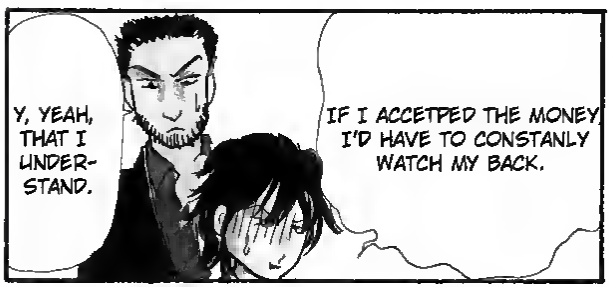

WELL, NOW I HAVE AN OFFICIAL WILL, DON'T I?
I ALSO WONDERED ABOUT THAT. AND I ASKED HER..


I CANNOT TAKE THE MONEY WITH ME TO THE GRAVE, ANYWAY.
I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING THAT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I HAD A FAMILY.
IT WAS SUCH FUN TO TALK WITH TORU-KUN. AS IF I HAD A GRANDCHILD.

BUT..., GRANNY....
...

ON YOUR WAY HOME, DIDN'T YOU FEEL LONELY?
YOU LOOKED SO SAD. WHEN YOU WENT HOME AFTER PAYING...

YOU'RE PAYING ME IN YOUR LAST TRIP HOME?

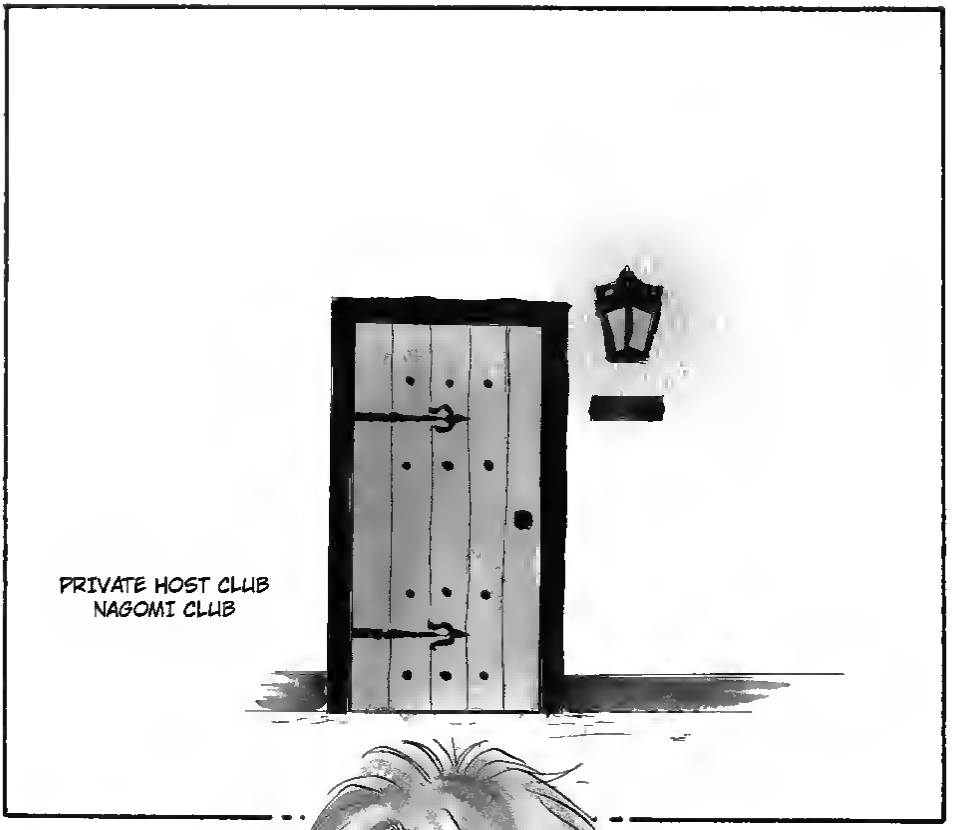

Y, YEAH, THAT I UNDER-STAND.
IF I ACCETPED THE MONEY I'D HAVE TO CONSTANLY WATCH MY BACK.

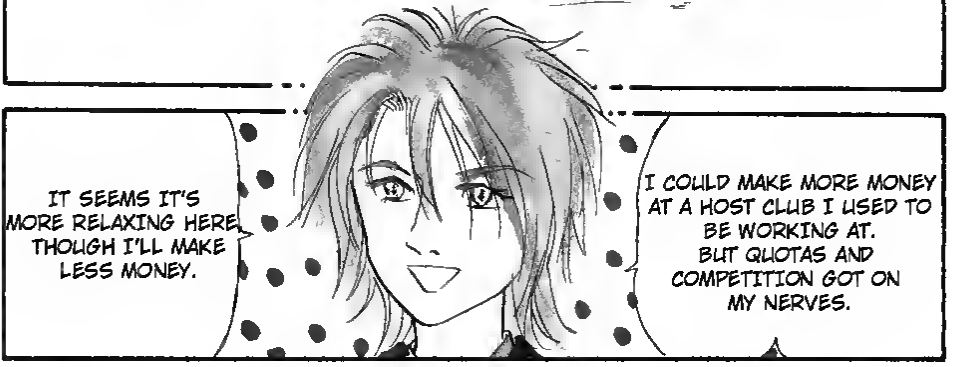
IF YOU REALLY WANNA SEE YOUR REAL GRANDCHILD, YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY.
AM I RIGHT?
CAN YOU MAKE ME TWO RUSTY NAILS?

I HEARD YOU REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE MONEY???
AREN'T YOU AN IDIOT, TORU?

YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN. SO, ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY HOME.
カラン…
BYE BYE.

Nagomi Club no.5


PRIVATE HOST CLUB
NAGOMI CLUB

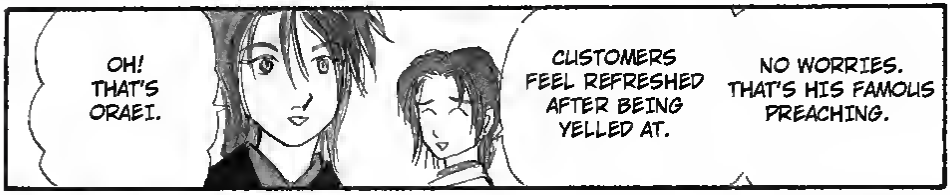

IT SEEMS IT'S MORE RELAXING HERE. THOUGH I'LL MAKE LESS MONEY.
I COULD MAKE MORE MONEY AT A HOST CLUB I USED TO BE WORKING AT. BUT QUOTAS AND COMPETITION GOT ON MY NERVES.

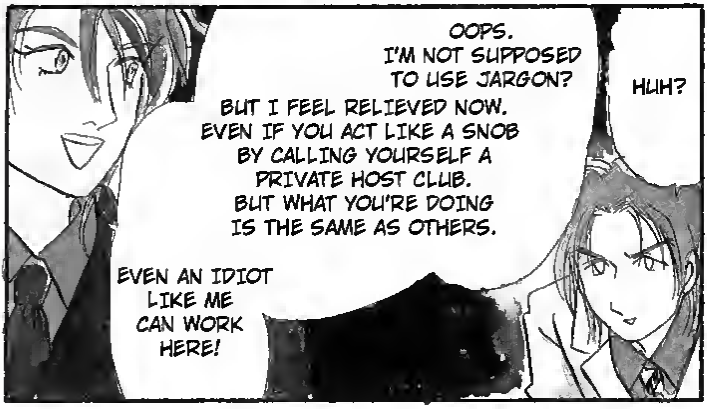
...
HE WILL BE A TRAINEE FOR A MONTH. WE WILL THEN DECIDE IF WE'LL HIRE HIM AFTER THAT PERIOD.
THIS IS YUYA-KUN. HE IS STARTING TODAY.

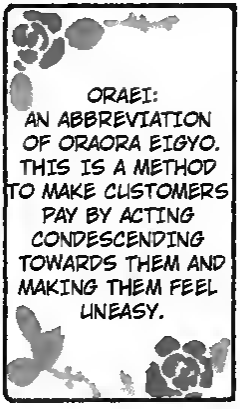
I'M SORRY!
DON'T MAKE ME SAY THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER!!

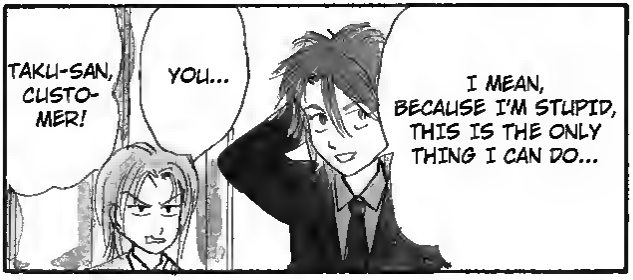
IDIOT!!

AFTER A FEW DAYS OF NO SHOW, HE WON'T COME BACK AGAIN.
I'D SAY ONE WEEK.
HE WON'T LAST A MONTH.


OH! THAT'S ORAEI.
CUSTOMERS FEEL REFRESHED AFTER BEING YELLED AT.
NO WORRIES. THAT'S HIS FAMOUS PREACHING.


OOPS. I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO USE JARGON?
HUH?
BUT I FEEL RELIEVED NOW. EVEN IF YOU ACT LIKE A SNOB BY CALLING YOURSELF A PRIVATE HOST CLUB. BUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS THE SAME AS OTHERS.
EVEN AN IDIOT LIKE ME CAN WORK HERE!


ORAEI: AN ABBREVIATION OF ORAORA EIGYO. THIS IS A METHOD TO MAKE CUSTOMERS PAY BY ACTING CONDESCENDING TOWARDS THEM AND MAKING THEM FEEL UNEASY.


TAKU-SAN, CUSTO-MER!
YOU...
I MEAN, BECAUSE I'M STUPID, THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO...

NEVER MIND.

WHAT'S UP?

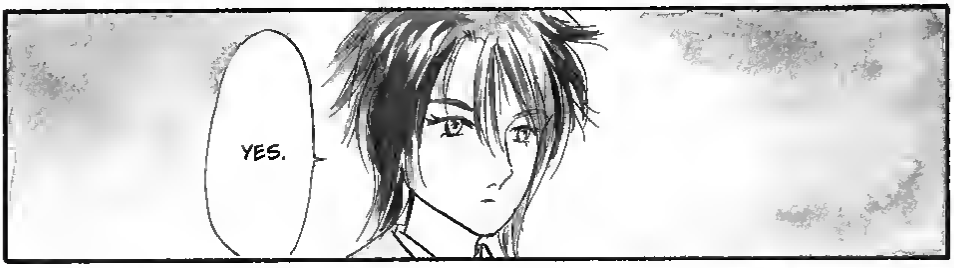
HEY, YUYA.
WHATUP?
OH...NO... I CANNOT.
WOW!! YOU TAKE YOUR DRINK WELL! THAT'S GREAT! C'MON ONE MORE!
YES, YOU CAN. EXCUSE ME! ONE MORE BOTTLE PLEASE!
ゴクゴク
OH, NO... I CANNOT LEAVE A CUSTOMER ALONE. CAN I? GOTTA GO.
YOU... THAT'S...
LISTENING TO YOU WHINING ANNOYS ME.
BEFORE THEY BECOME BORED, IT'S EASIER TO MAKE THEM DRINK AND SHUT THEM UP.
THIS CLUB ISN'T ON A COMMISSION BASIS. SO, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY BOTTLES CUSTOMERS OPEN. YOUR SALARY WON'T CHANGE. DON'T MAKE THEM DRINK MORE THAN THEY NEED.
WHAAT? CUZ...
SORRY! TOOK ME A BIT.
...

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A WELOME PARTY?
OHHHH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY WELCOME PARTY. I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING BBQ TONIGHT.
AND JUST BBQ?
HEY, YUYA, GOT TIME?
GOOD WORK!!
GOOD WORK!
WHAAA? THAT'S JUST YOUR CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE LIKE "WE'RE DIFFERENT."
IT'S OUR RULE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT OTHER HOSTS' BUSINESS CONDUCT. BUT YOURS HAS A FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE.
THIS CLUB ISN'T LIKE OTHER CLUBS WHERE THEY JUST DRINK AND PARTY.
WHAT THE!
EVEN TONIGHT, NO SINGLE CUSTOMER LEFT ANGRY.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU WANNA LOOK GOOD. BUT, A HOST CLUB IS JUST A HOST CLUB, ISN'T IT?
CUSTOMERS FEEL GOOD BY PAYING US. IS THERE ANY DIFFERENCE?

MANAGER! FIRE HIM!
YOUU!!
THAT'S A LIE, GOTTA GO.
OH, MANAGER! THEY'RE BULLYING A NEWCOMER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Y,YOU!
CERTAINLY, TAKU-SAN LOOKS STUPID.
IT WASN'T YOU, TAKU-SAN. HE MEANT A HOST
HE CALLED ME STUPID!
HE HAS RUINED THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CLUB. MAYBE, YOU SHOULD THINK TWICE ABOUT HIRING HIM?
WHAAAT?
THE TRAINING PERIOD HAS ENDED.
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE.
BUT, HE NEVER MISSES WORK.
I HEARD THAT HE GOT FIRED EVERYWHERE HE WORKED AFTER CAUSING TROUBLE.

MY SISTER'S GRAVELY ILL. HOW CAN I PAY HER TREATMENT?
OH, HERE COMES A TYPICAL EXCUSE.
THE STUFF YOU SAY MAKES EVERYONE MAD!!
ARE YOU FIRING ME? A PERSON LIKE ME WHO IS GOOD AT NOTHING CAN ONLY DO THIS TYPE OF WORK! PLEASE CHANGE YOUR MIND!
IT'S HARD TO TELL U..
DON'T GET FOOLED!!!!
OH, MY...
YUYA-KUN, YOU ARE VERY KIND TO YOUR SISTER. AREN'T YOU?
REALLY? NEVER THOUGHT THAT WAY.
WHY DID YOU GET TAKEN IN?
THAT MUST BE A LIE!!
HE SAID HE'D HIRE MEEE!!
REALLY!?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE'LL HIRE YOU.
MANA-GER!

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CUSTOMERS AND COWORKERS, SO...
...FROM NOW ON, TREAT YOUR CUSTOMERS AND COWRKERS IN THE SAME WAY YOU DO YOUR SISTER. ALRIGHT?


YES.

527
YUKA KANEKO

ONIICHAN!!

I'LL BE WORKING WITH YOU ALL FROM NOW ON!
えぇー!

HEY, YUKA. DO YOU THINK I'M KIND?
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT.
I'VE FOUND A JOB.
YAY!
HERE'S A NEW BEAR
VERY WELL. HOW ABOUT YOU, ONIICHAN?
HOW ARE YA?
YOU'RE VERY KIND.
YES!!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
ONII-CHAN?
ONII-CHAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
...?
ONII-CHAN?

Nagomi Club no.6

NO CUST-OMERS...
BAD ECONOMY, ISN'T IT?
PRIVATE HOST CLUB NAGOMI CLUB
がらーん
SILENCE...
YOUR OPINION IS DEFINITELY LEGIT. BUT ITS COMING FROM YOU ANNOYS ME.
I KNOW WE ARE A PRIVATE CLUB. BUT OUR BUSINESS DOESN'T GO THAT EASY WITHOUT TRYING TO GET MORE CUSTOMERS.
WE AREN'T CABA CLUB.
WHY NOT HOLD AN EVENT? WHITE DAY IS CLOSE.
UH 'WOOOO!!

WHAAAT? WHAT IS IT?
A MOUSE!!!
A MOUSE?
SERIOUSLY? WHERE?
IT'S HIDING UNDER THE FRIDGE NOW!!
COVER THE BOTTOM PART. CORNER IT.
DON'T LET IT ESCAPE!!
SOMEONE, BRING A FLASH LIGHT!!
THERE IT IS!!!!
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?
WE'LL USE A NET.
DO YOU THINK A HOST CLUB KEEPS A NET?
I'VE FOUND A BASEBALL BAT!!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH THE BAT?
HIT THE MOUSE WITH IT AND WHILE IT'S UNCONSCIOUS, WE'LL CATCH IT.
CAN YOU DO THAT? WHAT IF YOU HIT IT AT A WRONG PLACE AND KILLED IT?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL KEEP IT AS A PET. EITHER WAY, WE'LL END UP KILLING IT.
THEN, GO-SAN, YOU DO IT.
YES, PLEASE GO-SAN, DO IT.

THEN, YOU FINISH IT. TAKE THE TINY LIFE THAT'S TRYING TO LIVE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IF YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, NOBODY CAN DO IT.
OH YOU ARE JUST PRETEN-DING!!
NO, NO, NO!!! DON'T!!!! THAT'S TOO CUREL!!!
O, OK...
A MOUSE? WE GOTTA CALL AN EXTERMINATOR.
WOW! IT RAN UP THE WALL VERTICALLY.
IT'S GOT INTO THE VENT-ILATION.
OF COURSE. THIS IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE EAT AND DRINK. WHAT WE FEAR THE MOST ISN'T A PLACE WITH NO CUSTOMERS. IT'S A BUSINESS SUSPENSION ORDER FROM THE CITY.
ARE YOU GONNA GET RID OF IT?
タタタ
MANAGER! THERE'S A MOUSE.
OHHH, IT'S GOT AWAY!!

BUT, A MOUSE IS A MAMMAL, JUST LIKE US. IT WAS RAISED WITH MOTHER'S MILK.
THAT'S TOO SAD!
YEAH, BUT, IT'S JUST A MOUSE.
BUT, A MOUSE SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
A MOUSE ISN'T LIKE A BUSINESS MAN FROM A COUNTRY WHO JUST TAKES A BUSINESS TRIP HERE.
HOLD THAT THOUGHT MANAGER! THE MOUSE MAYBE HAPPENED TO STOP BY HERE, AND NEVER COME BACK AGAIN!
SUDDEN FEELING OF CLOSENESS!
MOTHER'S MILK...
OH, THAT'S A DIFFERENT STORY! THERE IS A FIGHT GOING ON INSIDE OF ME.
DON'T BRING YOUR PRIVATE MATTER TO WORK.
I DON'T WANNA FEEL DEATHS AROUND ME.
YUYA-KUN, YOU LOVE BBQ.
YOU EVEN PUT THAT IN YOUR RESUME.
MAYBE, IT WAS JUST PASSING BY
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY... I FEEL SORRY FOR IT.
YOU GUYS ARE SAYING THAT KIND OF NONSENSE TOO?

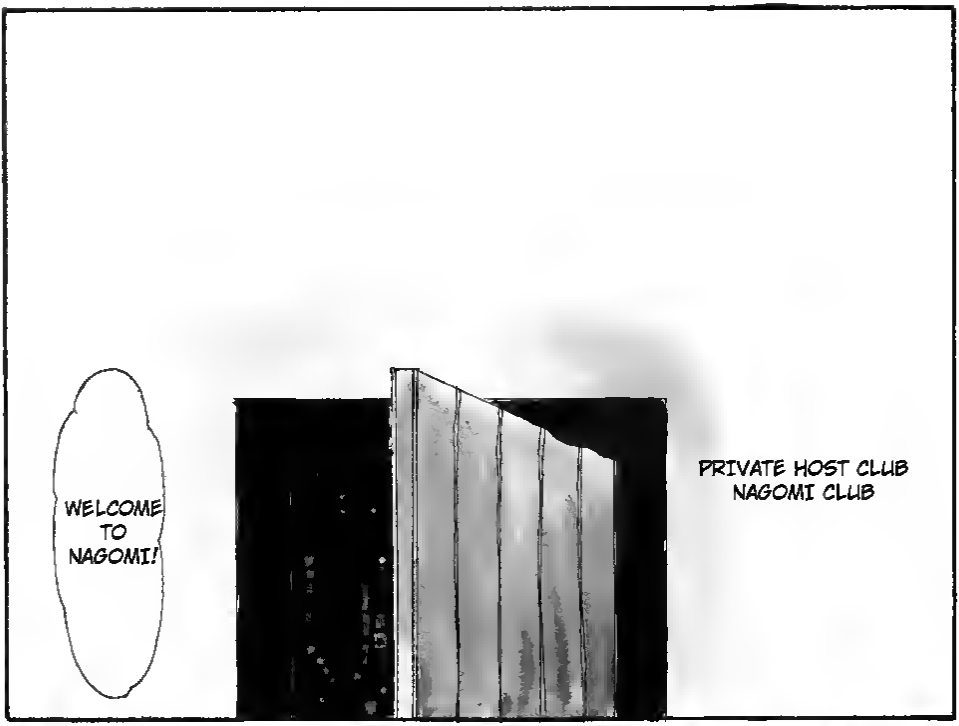
...
OK, FINE.
I AGREE!
PLEASS-EEEE.
CAN YOU WAIT UNTIL WE EXPERIENCE SOME DAMAGE, LIKE SOMETHING GOT BITTEN? MAYBE THEN YOU CAN CALL AN EXTERMINATOR?
IS THAT OK?
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T SHOW UP AGAIN, WE'LL THINK IT WAS JUST A TRANSIENT MOUSE.
IF WE SEE IT AGAIN, IF IT DECIDES TO SHOW UP AGAIN, I'LL CALL FOR HELP.
OK, THEN, LET'S DO THIS...
CHEW
WELCOME!

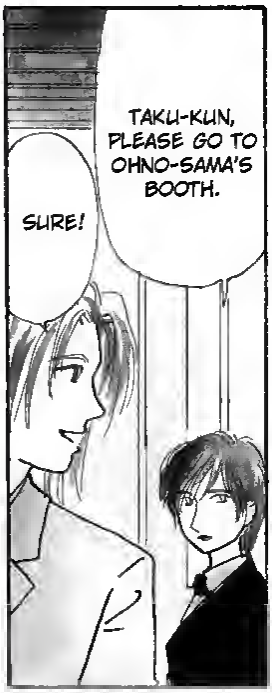
WHAT HAPPENED IN JUNIOR HIGH?
UM, OH, NO, NOTHING. JUNIOR HIGH... WHEN YOU WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH, WHAT HAPPENED?
キュッ、
POLISH
キュッ、
POLISH
TAKU-KUN, WE HIRE CLEANING SERVICES, SO DON'T YOU EARNESTLY CLEAN IT.
OH... THIS IS...
I HEARD A MOUSE EVEN EATS SOUP. I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA TO LEAVE THE SOUP OUT AFTER CLOSING.
IF WE HIDE ALL FOOD, THE MOUSE WON'T COME NEAR US.
YUYA, ARE YA TAKING FIVE? CAN YOU GO GET SOME CIGARETTES?
SURE!
ちゃりん!
OOPS...
...!!

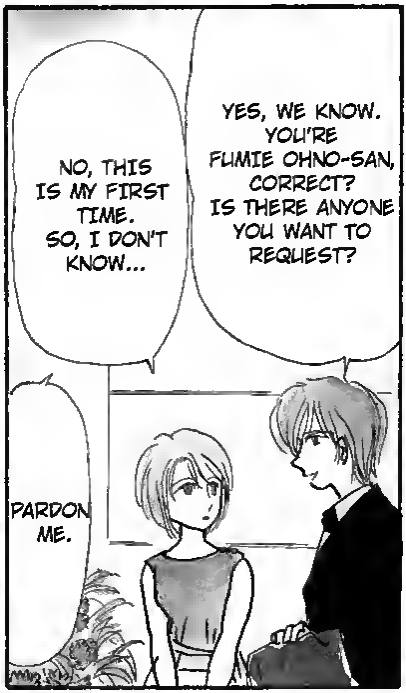
WHEN DID U GUYS NAME THE MOUSE?
DON'T WORRY! CHUTA MUST BE JUST FINE.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT MAY BE AN OLD MOUSE THAT DIED OF AGE.
BUT IT MAY NOT BE HIM.
YEAH... HE WAS DEAD BEHIND A VENDING MACHINE.
WHAAAAA? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CHUTA?
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE WE SAW CHUTA.
SEE YA TOMO-RROW!
THANK YOU ALL FOR THE GOOD WORK!
CHU...
ただ
SEE, HE WAS JUST PASSING BY.
WE HAVEN'T SEE HIM EVER SINCE.
GOOD WORK TONIGHT!
MANAGER, WE'RE GOING HOME NOW.
MAYBE, HE'S FOUND A HOME AT A DISHONEST RESTAURANT.
YEA...

IN A PUBLIC PLACE, WE'RE ALL FREE TO DO WHATEVER.
YES! IT WAS OUTSIDE!!
IT.. IT WAS OUTSIDE!!
WAS IT...
MAYBE, IT WAS A HAMSTER...
SEE YA TOMO-RROW!
OH....
SEE YA TOMORROW.
BE CARE-FUL OUT THERE.

Nagomi Club no.7

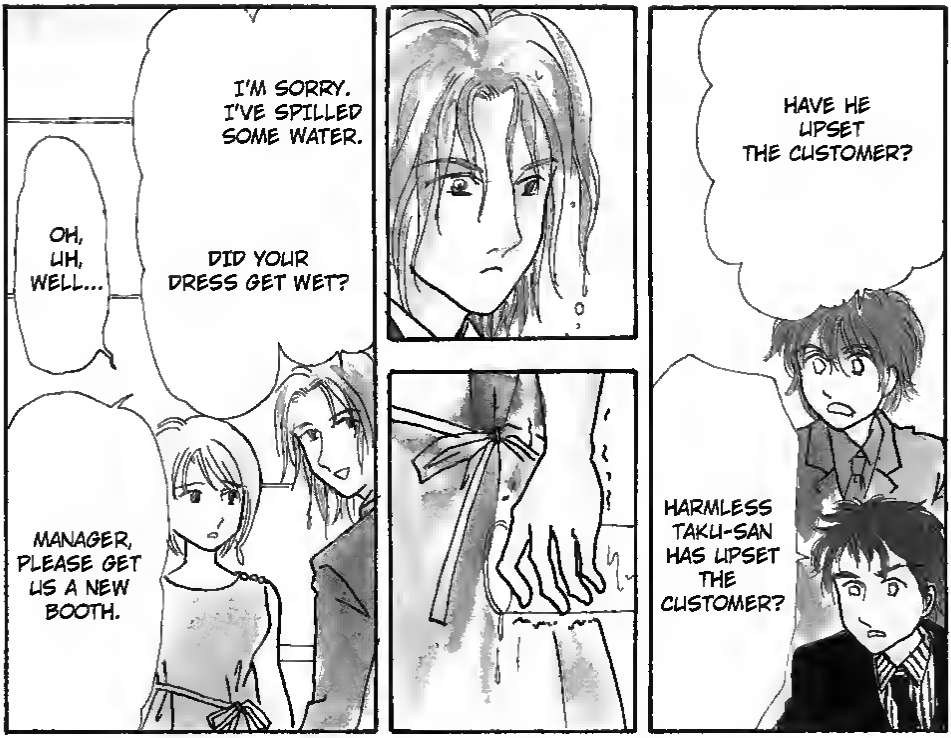

WELCOME TO NAGOMI!
PRIVATE HOST CLUB
NAGOMI CLUB


TAKU-KUN, PLEASE GO TO OHNO-SAMA'S BOOTH.
SURE!


YES, WE KNOW. YOU'RE FUMIE OHNO-SAN, CORRECT? IS THERE ANYONE YOU WANT TO REQUEST?
NO, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME. SO, I DON'T KNOW...
PARDON ME.

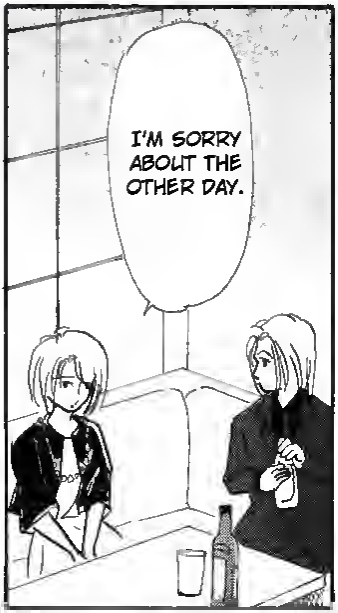
OH, HI, YOSHIDA-SAN INVITED ME OVER HERE.
SHE'LL COME LATER.

POOF
YOU PUT IT RIGHT, YUYA.
HE'S LIKE A "JUST-FOR-NOW" BEER.
HEY, DON'T LAUGH.
HE'S JUST AN AVERAGE GUY, WHO'S NOT TOO JOLLEY, NOT TOO DEPRESSED. NOT TOO UNIQUE, AND NOT TOO HANDSOME.
TAKU-SAN TENDS TO SIT WITH FIRST TIMERS.
BASICALLY, HE'S HARMLESS.
WE HAVE NO AVERAGE PEOPLE HERE.
MANA-GER...
NO.
ばしゃっ
SPLASH
HUH?
WOW!


I'M SORRY. I'VE SPILLED SOME WATER.
OH, UH, WELL...
DID YOUR DRESS GET WET?
MANAGER, PLEASE GET US A NEW BOOTH.
HAVE HE UPSET THE CUSTOMER?
HARMLESS TAKU-SAN HAS UPSET THE CUSTOMER?
THIS IS THE MONEY FOR DRY CLEANING.
I'M GOING HOME NOW.
NO NEED FOR THAT.
...
I DON'T NEED THE MONEY FOR DRY CLEANING. BUT I'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU REQUEST ME NEXT TIME.

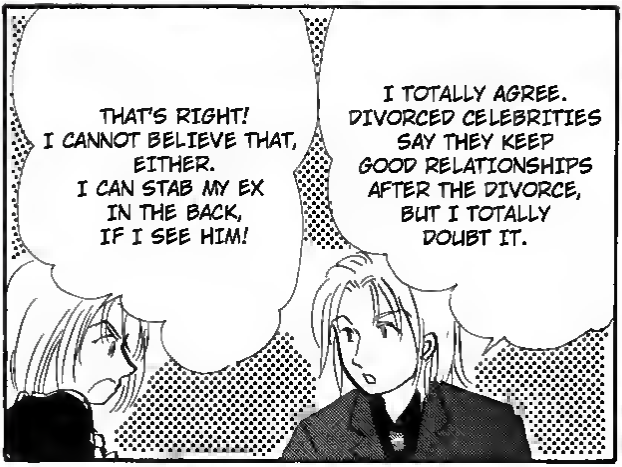
I JUST GOT DIVORCED.
YOU LOOK DEPRESSED. WHAT HAPPENED?
WELCOME TO NAGOMI. I'M TAKU.
SIGH
HEY, TAKU!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
NOTHIN' JUST THE SAME STUFF.
BUT, IT'LL BE ALRIGHT!
IS THAT RIGHT?
SPLASH
ばしゃっ!!
YEAH? IS THAT SO?
SHE'LL NEVER COME BACK AGAIN.
IT WAS GOOD, CUZ IT WAS JUST WATER. WE COULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING, EVEN IF SHE HAD TURNED THE TABLE UPSIDE DOWN.
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?
OOH, IF I WERE IN HER SHOE, I'D GET MAD, TOO.

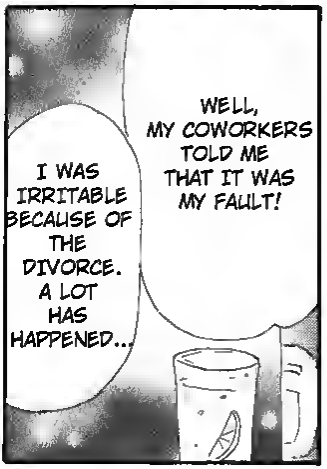
I HAVE A FEELING
SHE'LL COME AGAIN.


I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.

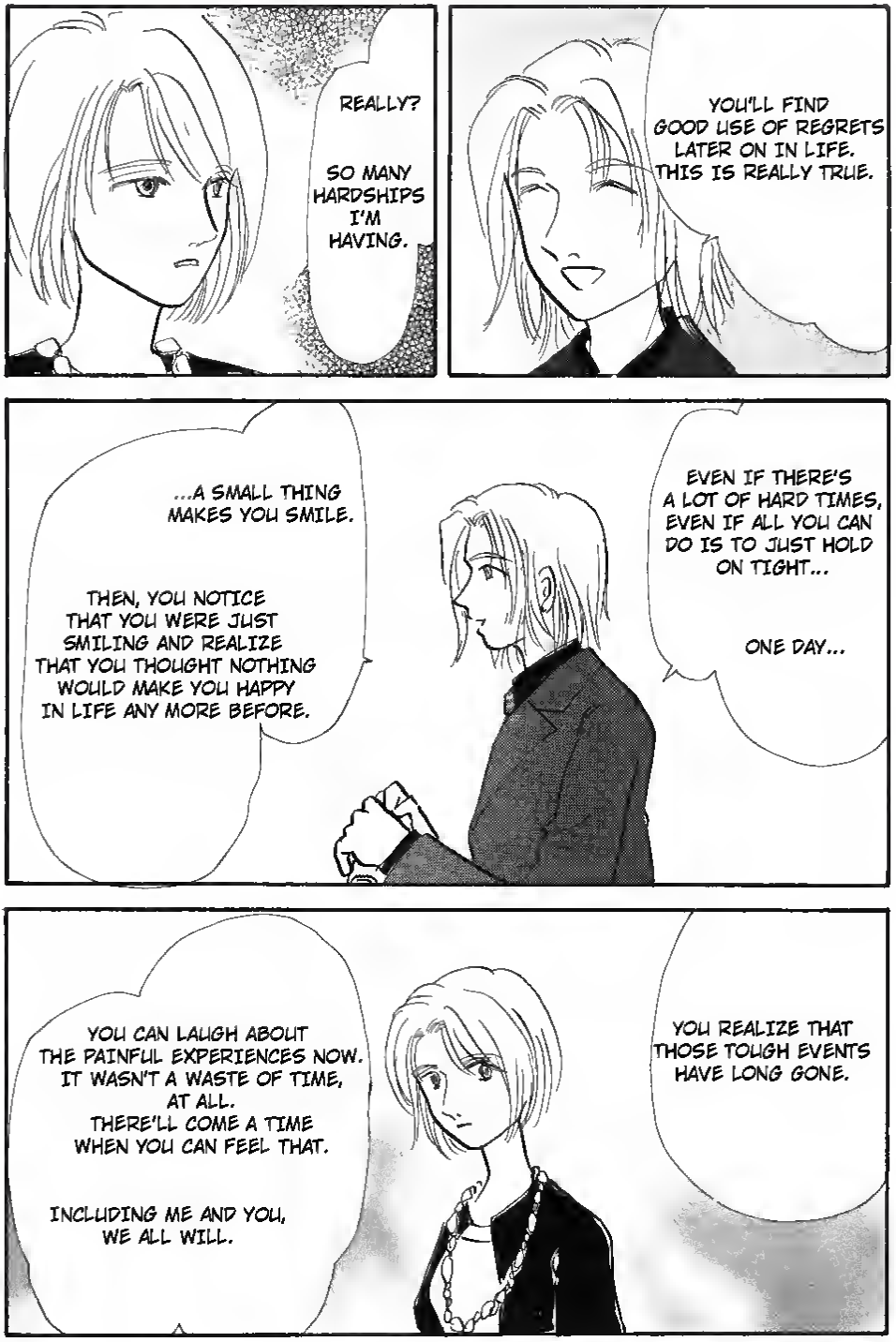
THANK YOU, OHNO-SAMA. PLEASE COME HERE!
SERI-OUSLY? SHE'S BACK.
WHY?

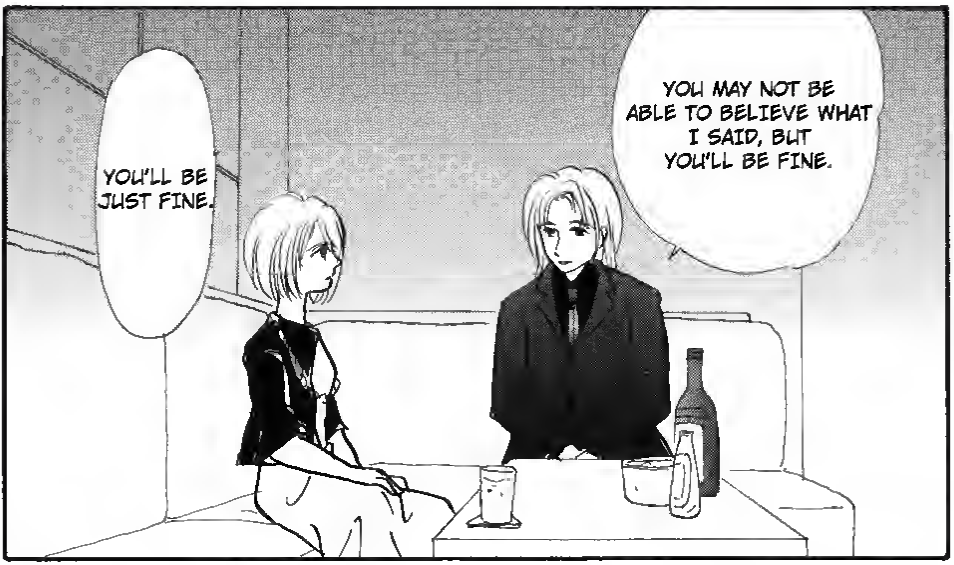
WEL-COME TO NA-GOMI!
IS TAKU-SAN HERE?

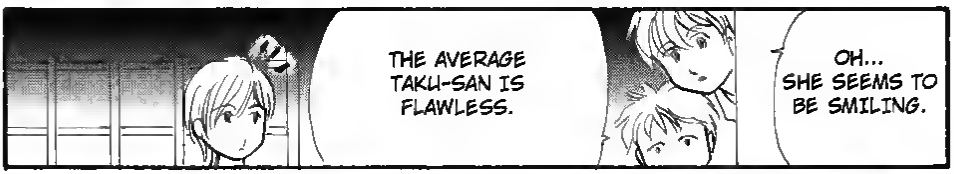

I TOTALLY AGREE. DIVORCED CELEBRITIES SAY THEY KEEP GOOD RELATIONSHIPS AFTER THE DIVORCE, BUT I TOTALLY DOUBT IT.
THAT'S RIGHT! I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT, EITHER. I CAN STAB MY EX IN THE BACK, IF I SEE HIM!

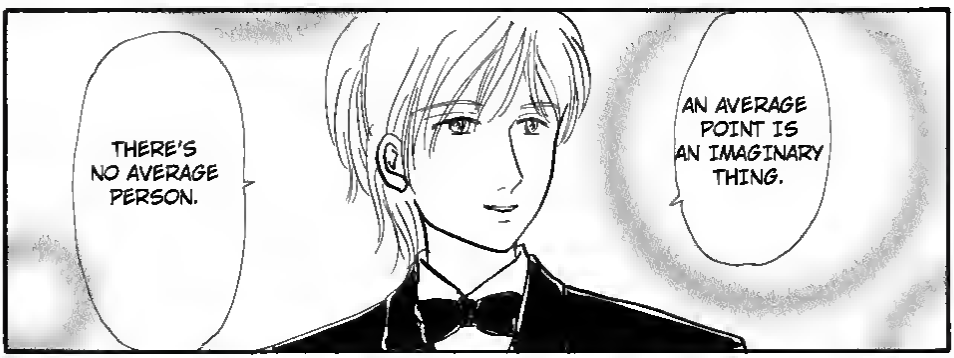

WELL, MY COWORKERS TOLD ME THAT IT WAS MY FAULT!
I WAS IRRITABLE BECAUSE OF THE DIVORCE. A LOT HAS HAPPENED...

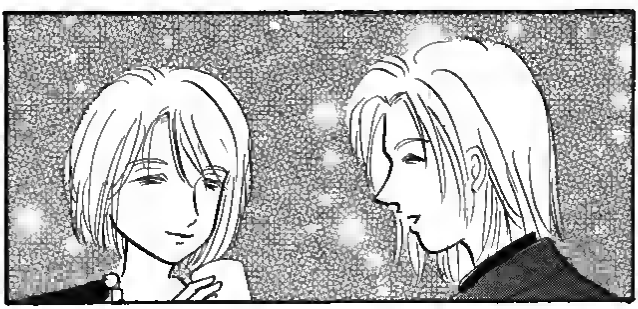
OH, WELL, WE'RE JUST CONCERNED.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOIN' THERE?
REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, THINGS ARE GOING OK, IT SEEMS.
BUT PUNCHING SOMEONE IS ACTUALLY SCARY. I DON'T THINK I CAN.
I'D FEEL LIKE KNOCKING OUT SOMEONE JUST LIKE A BOXER.
EVEN IF YOU REALLY DID IT, YOU'D REGRET IT. THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE AGAIN, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF I'LL FEEL BETTER, IF I REALLY STAB HIM?
I DON'T THINK SO. YOUR HANDS WERE SHAKY, EVEN WHEN YOU POURED THE WATER ON ME.
NO, YOU AREN'T.
I'VE BEEN IN THIS SITUATION FOR A WHILE NOW. I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING OUT.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S WHY I KEPT ON THINKING ABOUT IT. I NEVER FELT BETTER


REALLY?
SO MANY HARDSHIPS I'M HAVING.
YOU'LL FIND GOOD USE OF REGRETS LATER ON IN LIFE. THIS IS REALLY TRUE.
...A SMALL THING MAKES YOU SMILE.
THEN, YOU NOTICE THAT YOU WERE JUST SMILING AND REALIZE THAT YOU THOUGHT NOTHING WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY IN LIFE ANY MORE BEFORE.
EVEN IF THERE'S A LOT OF HARD TIMES, EVEN IF ALL YOU CAN DO IS TO JUST HOLD ON TIGHT...
ONE DAY...
YOU CAN LAUGH ABOUT THE PAINFUL EXPERIENCES NOW. IT WASN'T A WASTE OF TIME, AT ALL. THERE'LL COME A TIME WHEN YOU CAN FEEL THAT.
INCLUDING ME AND YOU, WE ALL WILL.
YOU REALIZE THAT THOSE TOUGH EVENTS HAVE LONG GONE.


YOU'LL BE JUST FINE.
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BELIEVE WHAT I SAID, BUT YOU'LL BE FINE.


THE AVERAGE TAKU-SAN IS FLAWLESS.
OH... SHE SEEMS TO BE SMILING.

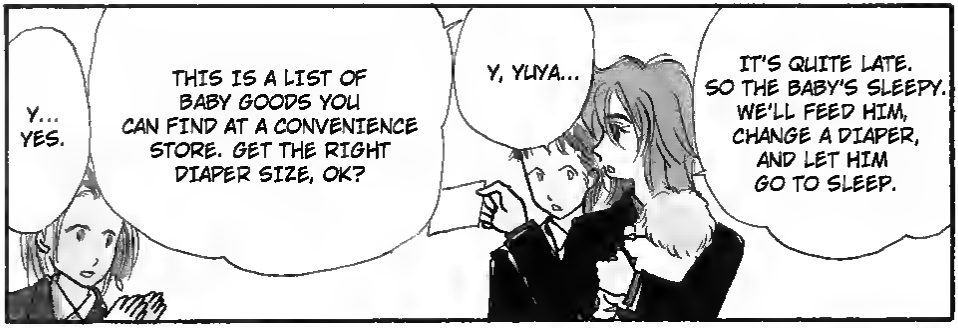

THERE'S NO AVERAGE PERSON.
AN AVERAGE POINT IS AN IMAGINARY THING.

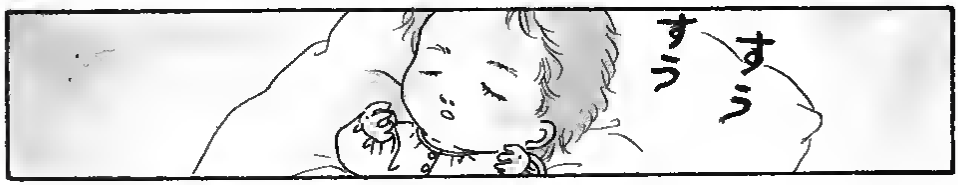


Nagomi Club no.8

WEL..
COME..
HUH?
PRIVATE HOST CLUB
NAGOMI CLUB
DAAA

DAAAAA
MAY I ASK YOUR NAME, PLEASE?
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A SLIGHT PANIC MODE.
NOT THAT! YOU GOTTA TAKE THE BABY IN FIRST!!
EXCUSE ME, BUT, EVEN IF YOU HAVE AN INVITATION, WE CANNOT LET A MINOR IN.
IT'S NOT MINE! I'LL REFUSE TO PAY YOU, NAOKI-KUN.
"IT'S YOURS. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT FOR A LITTLE WHILE." SEE, MANAGER?
THERE'S A NOTE.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? TELL ME!!
OHHH, IT'S CRYING!!
ふぎゃー
HELL NO! NOBODY HAS MILK!!
M, MILK! WE NEED MILK. GOT ANY?
BAWWWWWW
THERE IS NO FATHER'S NAME IN THE NOTE. DON'T WE ALL HAVE AN EQUAL POSSIBILITY HERE?
CUZ', YOU SEEM PANI-CKY.
NOT MINE!
YEAH, THAT'S POSSIBLE.
THEN, IT'S YOURS, GO-SAN?


Y... YES.
THIS IS A LIST OF BABY GOODS YOU CAN FIND AT A CONVENIENCE STORE. GET THE RIGHT DIAPER SIZE, OK?
Y, YUYA...
IT'S QUITE LATE. SO THE BABY'S SLEEPY. WE'LL FEED HIM, CHANGE A DIAPER, AND LET HIM GO TO SLEEP.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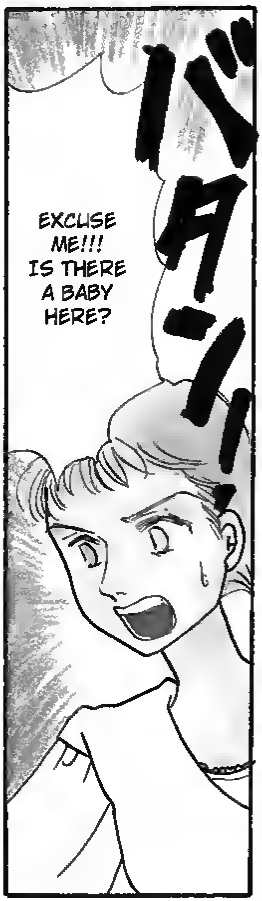
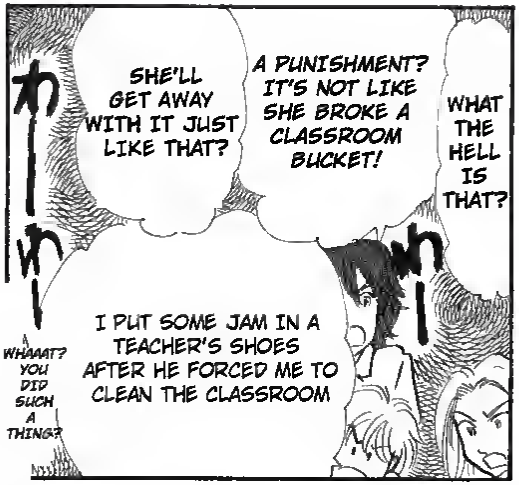
AWWWW
THANK GOD! HE'S HERE!!


バターン!!
EXCUSE ME!!! IS THERE A BABY HERE?

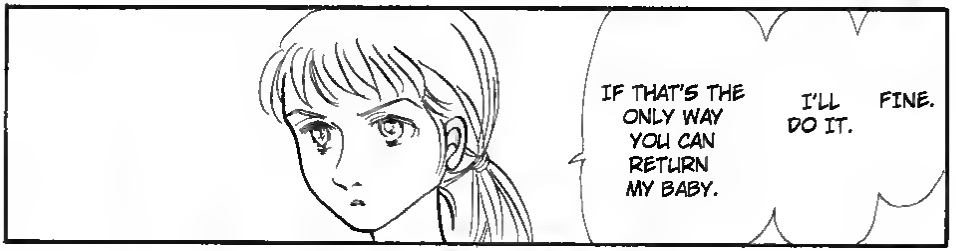
YUYA-KUN, YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE A BABY, DON'T YOU?
LOOK AT THE HAND. IT'S SO SMALL, BUT HAS FINGERS AND NAILS.
SO CUU-TE.
I USED TO TAKE CARE OF MY BABY SISTER.

GOTTA CALL UP THE CHILD PROTECTION SERVICE
EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE... IT'S TIME TO CLOSE UP THE CLUB. YOU CAN GO HOME. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
わーい

A WRONG PLACE? ARE YOU GONNA LEAVE THIS BABY SOMEWHERE ELSE AGAIN?
I'M SORRY. THAT'S MY BABY. I LEFT THE BABY AT A WRONG CLUB. I THOUGHT THIS WAS MY EX'S.
EVEN IF YOU ARE THE MOTHER. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE ONE AFTER DOING WHAT YOU'VE DONE!!
THERE'S NO PROOF THAT YOU'RE THE MOTHER, EITHER.
WE CANNOT GIVE YOU THE BABY BACK.
IF YOU REFUSE TO GIVE ME THE BABY BACK, I'LL TELL THE POLICE THAT YOU KIDNAPPED MY BABY.
I DIDN'T ABANDON THE BABY. I JUST HAPPENED TO PLACE HIM SOMEPLACE.
NO, THIS ISN'T A POLICE INVESTIGATION CASE.
THIS IS AN ENDLESS DISPUTE. WHY NOT CONDUCT A DNA TEST?
THE SOCIETY WILL BELIEVE A MOTHER RATHER STRANGERS.
GO AHEAD! WE HAVE THE NOTE AS EVIDENCE.
NO, YOU AIN'T!
YES, I AM!
YOU MAY NOT BE THE MOTHER!!


WHAAAT? YOU DID SUCH A THING?
I PUT SOME JAM IN A TEACHER'S SHOES AFTER HE FORCED ME TO CLEAN THE CLASSROOM
SHE'LL GET AWAY WITH IT JUST LIKE THAT?
A PUNISHMENT? IT'S NOT LIKE SHE BROKE A CLASSROOM BUCKET!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

WE'RE ABOUT TO CLOSE THE CLUB FOR THE NIGHT. IF YOU CLEAN THIS PLACE UP, WE'LL BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE MOTHER.
HUH?
OK, THEN, WHY DON'T YOU CLEAN UP THE CLUB?


IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN RETURN MY BABY.
I'LL DO IT.
FINE.

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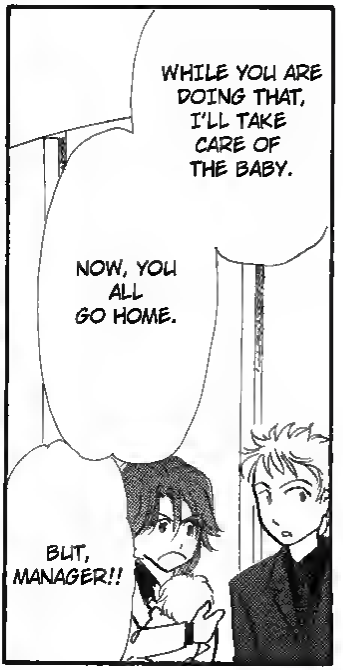
WHILE YOU ARE DOING THAT, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BABY.
NOW, YOU ALL GO HOME.
BUT, MANAGER!!

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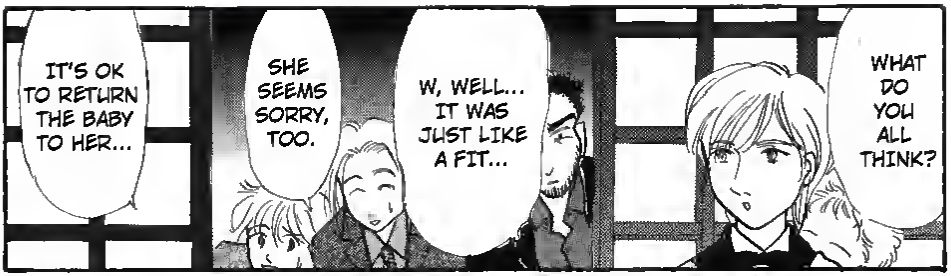
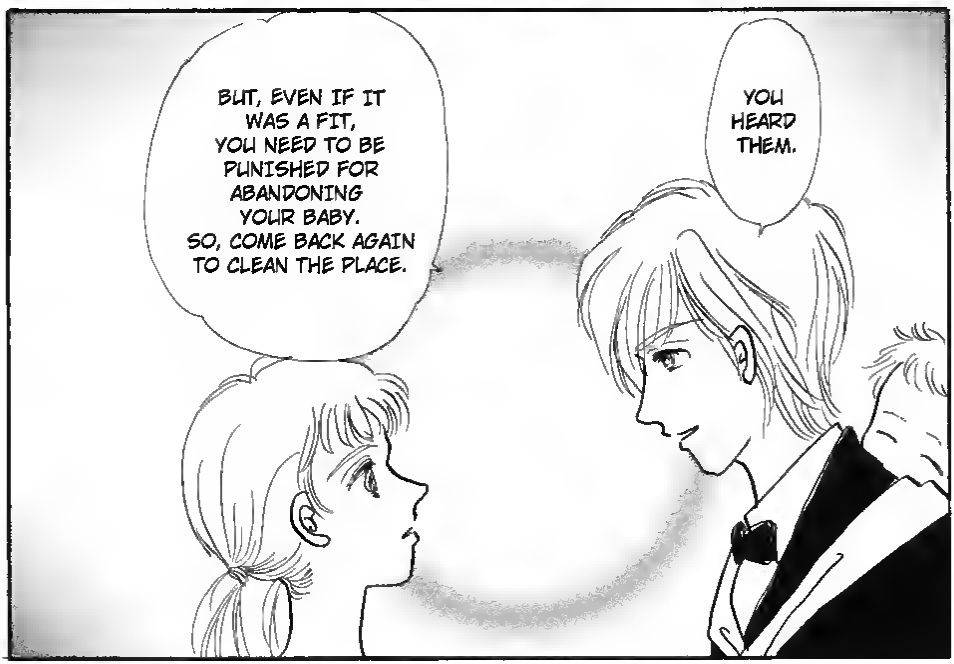
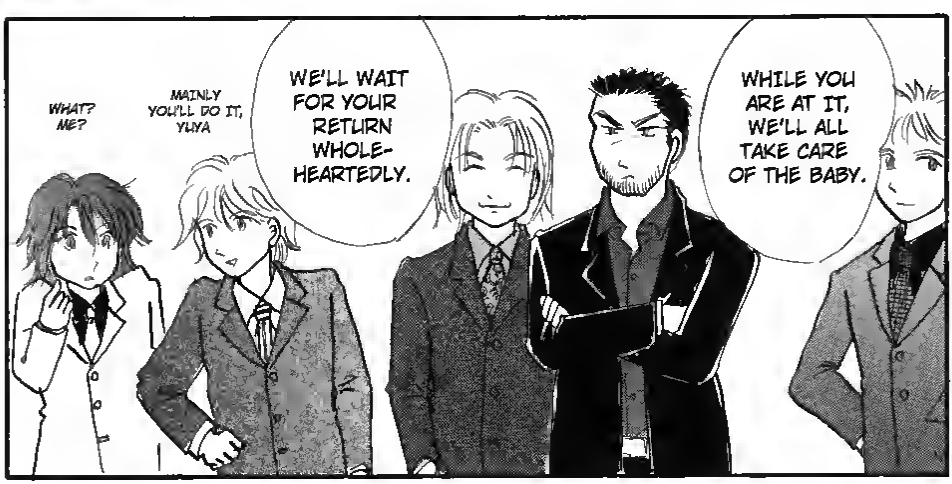
CANNOT COMPLAIN, CAN YOU?
HOW'S IT GOING?
I'M ALMOST DONE.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB.
IT'S A LOT CLEANER THAN USUAL.
WAHHHHH!!

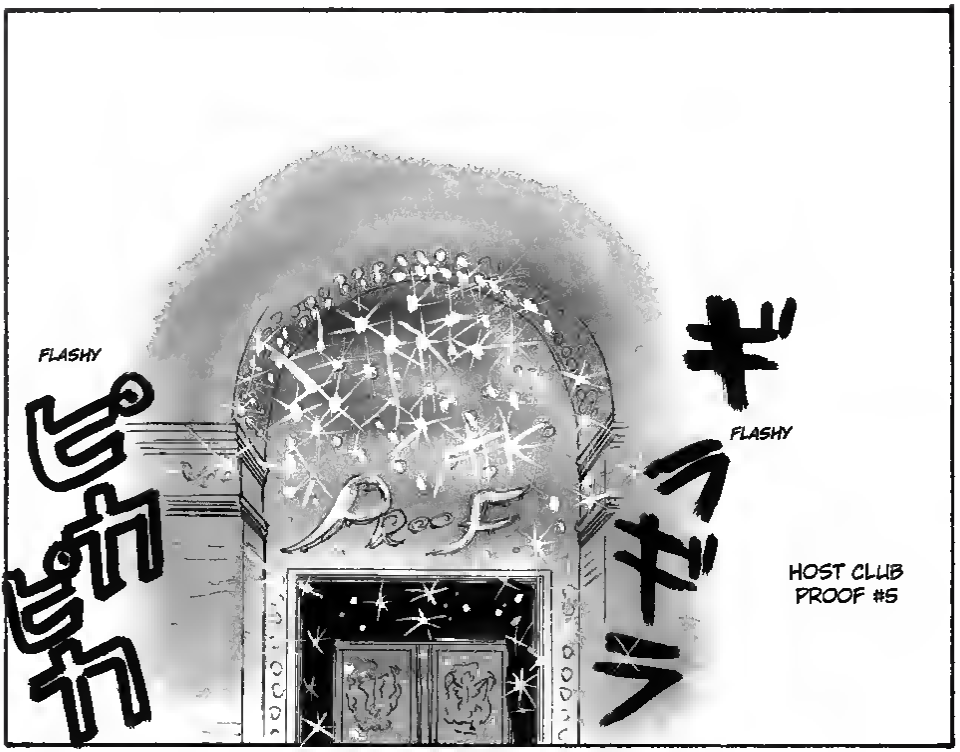
I'M NOT SAYING THAT THE BABY'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN MYSELF.
...BUT NO ONE WORRIES ABOUT ME.
EVEN WHEN I CONSULTED THE CITY, A HEALTH CENTER, PARENTING SERVICES, OR ONLINE SERVICES, THEY ALL SAY "YOU ARE WRONG ABOUT THAT" OR "YOU'D BETTER THINK ABOUT THE BABY," ALL ABOUT THE BABY.
I GET IT.
I DO, BUT...
MY HUSBAND IS A TRUCK DRIVER. SO HE'S SELDOM HOME. AND I'VE BEEN SUFFERING MATERNITY NEUROSIS.
IF THEY SAY, "YOU MUST BE HAVING A HARD TIME,"
OR "WE TOTALLY UNDER-STAND,"
THEN, I CAN KEEP GOING...!!


IT'S OK TO RETURN THE BABY TO HER...
SHE SEEMS SORRY, TOO.
W, WELL... IT WAS JUST LIKE A FIT...
WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK?


BUT, EVEN IF IT WAS A FIT, YOU NEED TO BE PUNISHED FOR ABANDONING YOUR BABY. SO, COME BACK AGAIN TO CLEAN THE PLACE.
YOU HEARD THEM.


WHAT? ME?
MAINLY YOU'LL DO IT, YUYA
WE'LL WAIT FOR YOUR RETURN WHOLE-HEARTEDLY.
WHILE YOU ARE AT IT, WE'LL ALL TAKE CARE OF THE BABY.

Nagomi Club no.9


FLASHY
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FLASHY
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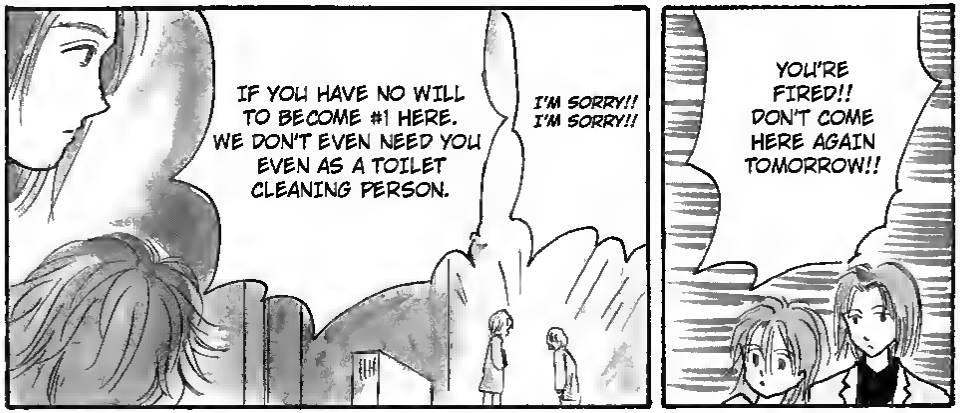
HOST CLUB
PROOF #5

THE PRESIDENT SEEMS VERY SHARP. THE MEDIA TALKS ABOUT HIM OFTEN, TOO.
ON THE WAY TO WORK
WOW, IMPRESSIVE. THIS IS THEIR 5TH LOCATION.


IF YOU HAVE NO WILL TO BECOME #1 HERE. WE DON'T EVEN NEED YOU EVEN AS A TOILET CLEANING PERSON.
I'M SORRY!! I'M SORRY!!
YOU'RE FIRED!! DON'T COME HERE AGAIN TOMORROW!!

YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU MAKE HIM MAD.
SERIOUS? HE'S ACTUALLY SCARY?
REALLY?
IF YOU SAID THAT IN FRONT OF THE MANAGER, YOU'D GET PUNISHED EVEN WORSE.
A MAJOR CLUB'S QUITE STRICT! I'M GLAD THAT OUR MANAGER IS A BIT LAX.
IS THAT A CLIENT?
SHUJI-SAN?
ARE YOU COMING TO NAGOMI CLUB? IT'S NOT GONNA BE OPEN FOR A WHILE.
MY SON LEFT HOME FIVE YEARS AGO TO BECOME AN ACTOR. BUT WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM FOR THREE YEARS.
WE DON'T HAVE SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL HERE. MAYBE YOU GOT A WRONG CLUB NAME?
WELL...
OH.... THANK GOD.
I'M NOT A CUSTOMER. MY SON MUST BE WORKING HERE. HIS NAME'S SHUJI.

POSSIBLE.
A CLUB ON TV? ISN'T IT "THAT" PROOF?
I HAPPENED TO BE WATCHING TV AND THIS PROGRAM WAS TALKING ABOUT A HOST CLUB. I SAW SHUJI FOR A SECOND.
BUT THE SCENE CHANGED QUICKLY AND I COULDN'T WRITE DOWN THE NAME OF THE CLUB,
PROOF?
YES, THE ONE ON THE MAIN STREET WITH FLASHY FLOWERS AND ALL. YOU'LL KNOW RIGHT AWAY.
REALLY? THANK U!
OH, YEAH. THESE ARE PICKLED VEGGIES, SHUJI'S FAVORITE. TAKE THIS! I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY GRATITUDE.
USE IT AS AN APPETIZER
T, THAT'S OK. YOUR SON'S FAVORITE STUFF.
I HAVE MORE IN ANOTHER TUPPERWARE. SO, TAKE IT.
HMM. WELL, BUT, FIRST OF ALL, A HOST CLUB DOESN'T HAVE ANY APPETIZERS.
DON'T BE SO MODEST. ENJOY IT! THANKS!
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ぱりぱり
SHE'S JUST LIKE MY MOM IN TERMS OF REFUSING TO LISTEN TO OTHERS.
OH, YEAH, MY MOM'S JUST LIKE THAT, TOO.
SHUJI'S FAV. YOU KNOW A MOTHER BELIEVES THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU LOVE AFTER YOU HAPPENED TO SAY YOU LIKED IT. THEN SHE KEEPS MAKING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER.
OH, YEAH, TOTALLY. WHEN I GO HOME, SHE'S WAITING FOR ME WITH TONS OF WHAT SHE THOUGHT I REALLY LIKED.
YEAH... SHE ALWAYS MAKES A LOT.

EXCUSE ME!
I'M LOOKING FOR A PERSON NAMED SHUJI.
THAT'S MY SON.
HOW IN THE WORLD YOU CAN GET LOST AND COME BACK HERE? IT'S SO EASY TO FIND THE PLACE.
A COUNTRY FOLK LIKE ME CANNOT FIND A WAY AROUND IN THE BIG CITY... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING...?
YOU AGAIN?
WHY DID YOU COME BACK?
OH, YEAH? ISN'T THIS THE PLACE CALLED PROOF?
EATING JUST THE PICKLED VEGGIES! TOO MUCH SODIUM! EAST SOME RICE, TOO!
EAT SOME RICE? BUT WHERE'S RICE?
E, EXCUSE ME... WHAT DO YA THINK YOU'RE DOING?
THIS IS THE RICE WE MADE BACK HOME. IT'S TASTY!
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じゃっ
THAT'S NOT MY QUESTION. WHY WASHING THE RICE HERE?
I CANNOT LEAVE YOU ALONE, LOOKING AT YOUR THIN BODY AND EATING JUST THE PICKLED VEGGIES!!
OH... NO... BUT, IT'S KINDA BAD THAT THE SMELL OF FRESHLY COOKED RICE PERMEATING THROUGH THE CLUB.
AND YOU GOT BEHIND THE COUNTER WITHOUT ASKING.
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I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA SEE YOUR SON...?
HERE YOU GO! GO AHEAD AND EAT THEM!

WWW, NICE AROMA!
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? OH, BURNT RICE!
もぐ
CUSTOMERS ARE GONNA COME SOON. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO??
もぐ
WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN SOON.

ONCE HE SAW ME EATING ONE I GRABBED FROM AN ALTER, CUZ' I WAS REALLY TIRED. HE BELIEVED THAT WAS MY FAVORITE FOOD. BUT I DON'T REALLY LIKE THAT SORT OF THING. ESPECIALLY RED BEAN PASTE.
SHUJI ALWAYS GOT ME DORAYAKI.
MISUNDER-STANDING? THAT HAPPENS TO ALL OF US.

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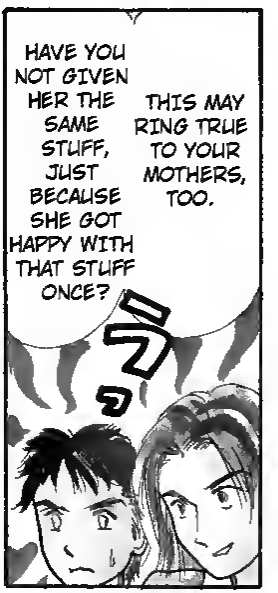
OH, YEA? THEN, EACH OF YOU, HAVE ANOTHER ONE.
MANAGER! THAT'S HOW OUR MOTHERS GET IT WRONG!!

SHUJI...?
WE JUST KNOW HOSTS' NICKNAMES.
THE PICS HERE ON THE WALL ARE ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES HERE.

OH, YEAH? THANKS.
IN RETURN FOR THE DELICIOUS RICE BALLS, LET ME TAKE YOU TO PROOF.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.


HAVE YOU NOT GIVEN HER THE SAME STUFF, JUST BECAUSE SHE GOT HAPPY WITH THAT STUFF ONCE?
THIS MAY RING TRUE TO YOUR MOTHERS, TOO.
ラブ

THERE ARE SOME MORE HOST CLUBS AROUND HERE. SO, MANYBE, IT WAS A DIFFERENT ONE.
IT WAS A QUICK GLIMPSE. SO, MAYBE IT WASN'T HIM...
HE MAY NOT WANNA SEE ME, EVEN IF HE IS WORKING SOMEWHERE ELSE...
NO... I DON'T...
DO YOU SEE HIM?
HUH? YOU KNOW, THIS ISN'T BALTI-MORE...
WE COUNTRY FOLKS ALL THINK THAT ONCE YOU ARE IN SUCH A BUSINESS, YOU'LL WIND UP BECOMING A DRUG DEALER, GETTING KILLED IN A GUN FIGHT, AND BEING THROWN INTO THE HUDSON RIVER...
WHAT MADE YOU SAY THAT?
WHEN HE LEFT HOME TO BECOME AN ACTOR, I TOLD HIM NOT TO GET INTO A NIGHT ENTER-TAINMENT BUSINESS. IF HE DID, I WOULD DISOWN HIM, I SAID.
I GOTTA GO, NOW. THE MIDNIGHT BUS IS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF.
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
BUT, YOU ARE REALLY NICE, GOOD KIDS.

HELLO, SHUJI-SAN?
YEAH...
WE COULDN'T FIND HER SON, AFTER ALL...
CAY YOU FIND YOUR WAY TO THE TERMINAL?
I JUST GO BACK THE WAY I CAME. THANK YOU.
!?
MOM!!
えぇーっ
SHUJI-SAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE PROOF GROUP.
KNOW HIM?
MAN-AGER!!
バン

IF YOU ARE FINE, I'M HAPPY.
BUT, CALL ME SOMETIMES, OK?
YEAH...
YEAH...
MOM... I'M...
I'M SORRY...
...
SHUJI!? HOW COME?
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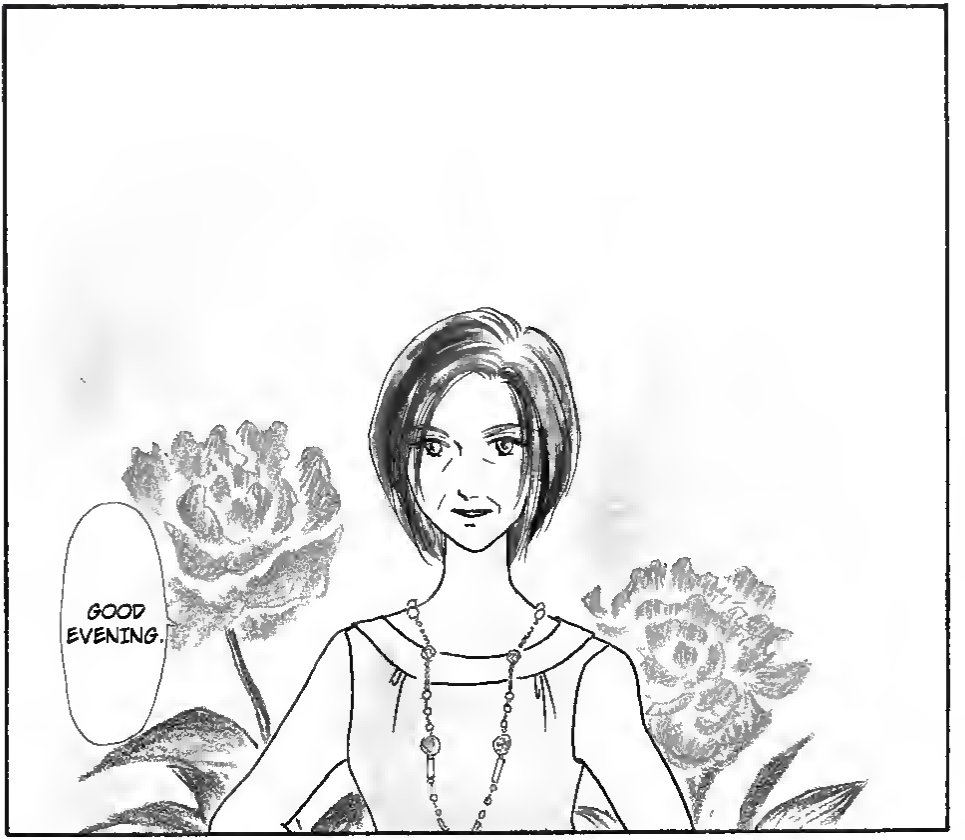
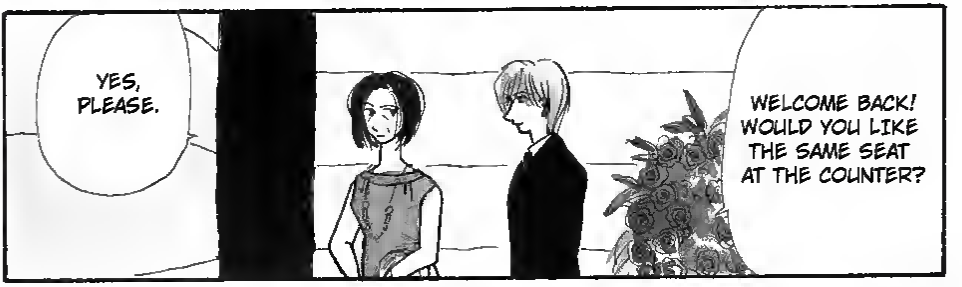
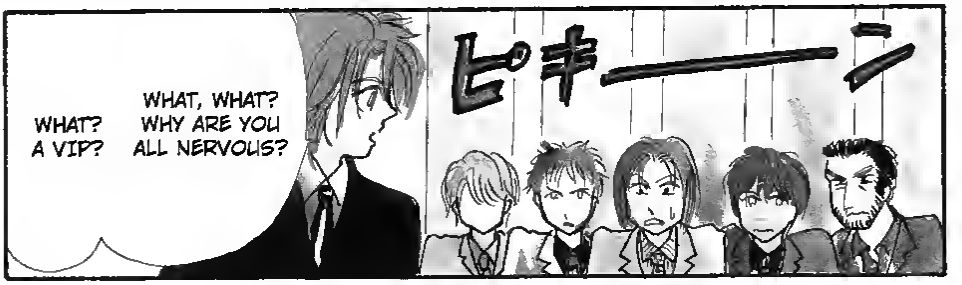
はー
THE MANAGER OF NAGOMI CLUB CALLED ME.
EAT THIS ON THE BUS.
OH, YEAH, THIS...
名物
どらやき
DORAYAKI
名菓屋
THANK YOU.
THAT'S MY FAVORITE.

Nagomi Club no.10


GOOD EVENING.


YES, PLEASE.
WELCOME BACK! WOULD YOU LIKE THE SAME SEAT AT THE COUNTER?


WHAT? A VIP?
WHAT, WHAT? WHY ARE YOU ALL NERVOUS?
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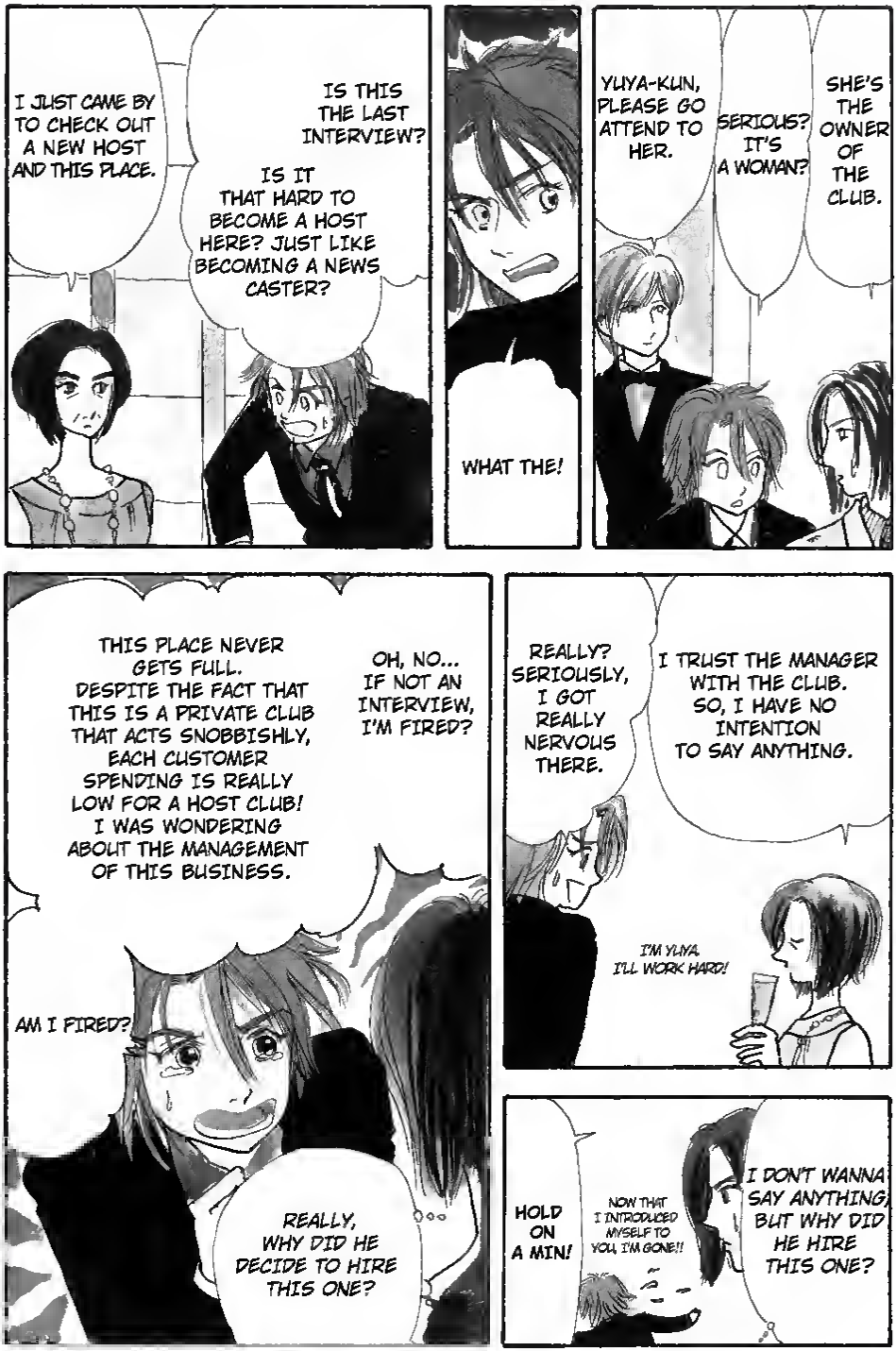
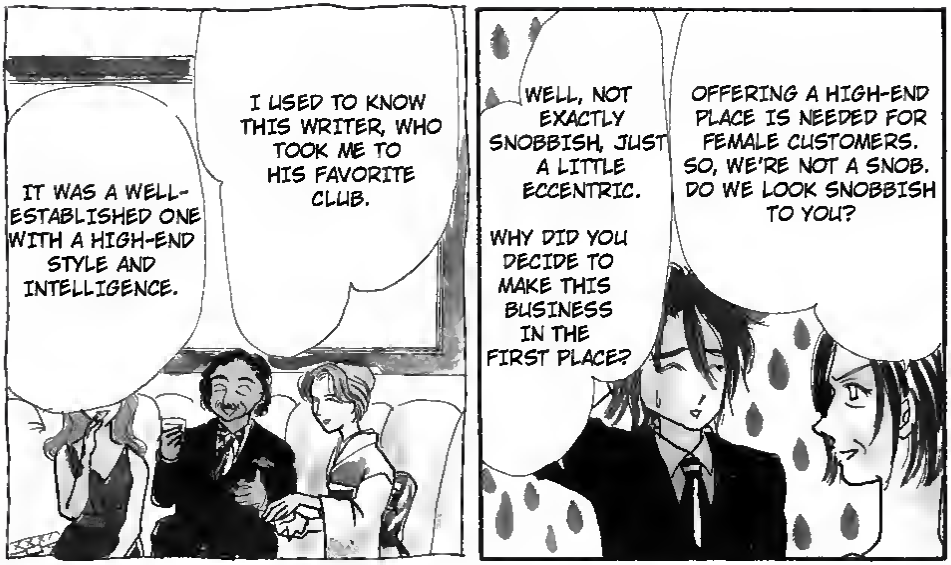
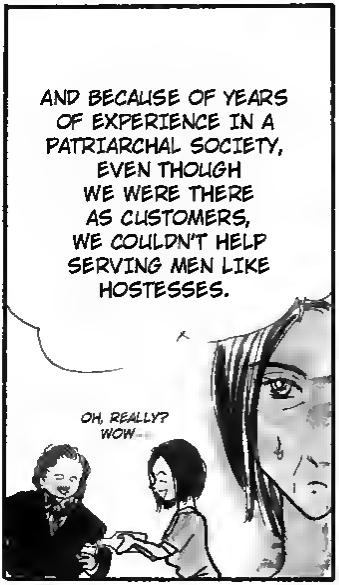

I JUST CAME BY TO CHECK OUT A NEW HOST AND THIS PLACE.
IS THIS THE LAST INTERVIEW?
IS IT THAT HARD TO BECOME A HOST HERE? JUST LIKE BECOMING A NEWS CASTER?
WHAT THE!
YUYA-KUN, PLEASE GO ATTEND TO HER.
SERIOUS? IT'S A WOMAN?
SHE'S THE OWNER OF THE CLUB.
THIS PLACE NEVER GETS FULL. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE CLUB THAT ACTS SNOBBISHLY, EACH CUSTOMER SPENDING IS REALLY LOW FOR A HOST CLUB! I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT OF THIS BUSINESS.
OH, NO... IF NOT AN INTERVIEW, I'M FIRED?
AM I FIRED?
REALLY, WHY DID HE DECIDE TO HIRE THIS ONE?
REALLY? SERIOUSLY, I GOT REALLY NERVOUS THERE.
I TRUST THE MANAGER WITH THE CLUB. SO, I HAVE NO INTENTION TO SAY ANYTHING.
I'M YUYA. I'LL WORK HARD!
HOLD ON A MIN!
NOW THAT I INTRODUCED MYSELF TO YOU, I'M GONE!!
I DON'T WANNA SAY ANYTHING, BUT WHY DID HE HIRE THIS ONE?


I USED TO KNOW THIS WRITER, WHO TOOK ME TO HIS FAVORITE CLUB.
IT WAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED ONE WITH A HIGH-END STYLE AND INTELLIGENCE.
OFFERING A HIGH-END PLACE IS NEEDED FOR FEMALE CUSTOMERS. SO, WE'RE NOT A SNOB. DO WE LOOK SNOBBISH TO YOU?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY SNOBBISH, JUST A LITTLE ECCENTRIC.
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO MAKE THIS BUSINESS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WE DON'T NEED TO PAY TO TALK WITH FEMALES. WE HAVE GIRLFRIENDS.
WHY NOT? WOMEN CAN HAVE FUN, TOO, RIGHT?
YET, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR WOMEN TO FEEL AT EASE.

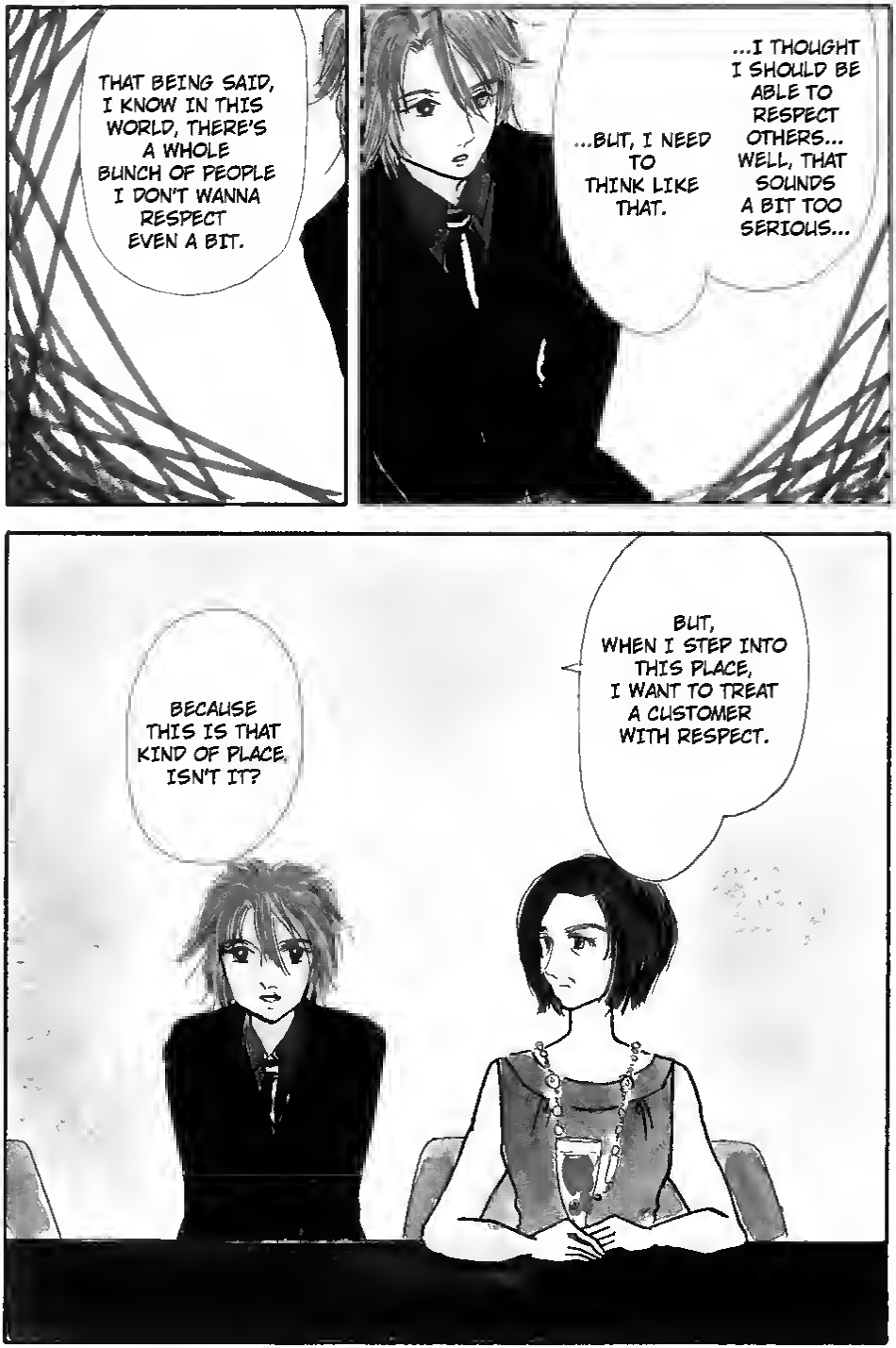
I WONDERED IF I COULD CREATE A CLUB WHERE WOMEN COULD RELAX.


AND BECAUSE OF YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN A PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY, EVEN THOUGH WE WERE THERE AS CUSTOMERS, WE COULDN'T HELP SERVING MEN LIKE HOSTESSES.
OH, REALLY? WOW...

サイコー!
ハイハイ!!
サイコー!
ハイハイ!!
ゆー
ゆー
ホストクラブ
HOST CLUBS ALL HAVE THIS KIND OF PARTY ATMOSPHERE.
HELLO.
I'M SHO.
HIS NICK-NAME BACK THEN
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A HOST. ARE YOU NEW?
YES, IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS. BUT, I JUST GOT FIRED TODAY.
OH, OK. I CAN TELL BY JUST LOOKING AT YOU, THAT YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR IT. WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BE ONE?
BECAUSE MY FATHER'S BUSINESS FAILED, WHICH LEFT US LOADS OF DEBTS. MY MOTHER HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE OF STRESS. NOW, WE NEED MONEY URGENTLY.
WHAT? WHAT DID DO?
I MADE NO EFFORTS, SO MY SALES DIDN'T GO UP.
I HEARD YOU COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY OVERNIGHT AT A HOST CLUB. SO I APPLIED FOR IT.
WELL, TRUE, MONEY IS CERTAINLY FLYING AROUND, BUT IT'S NOT YOURS.

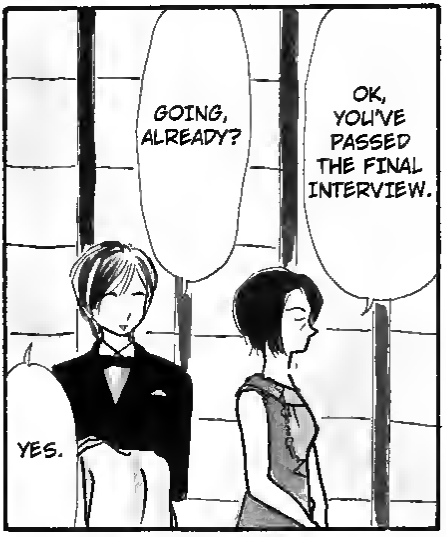
YES. IT WAS KIND OF THE MANAGER THAT HE TOLD ME THAT...
SO, THEN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO NEXT?
YOU UNDER-ESTIMATED WAY TOO MUCH!!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT. I UNDERE-STIMATED IT A BIT.
NO! DON'T SELL ANY OF YOUR ORGANS!!
I COULD SELL PARTS OF MY ORGANS FOR GOOD MONEY.
WE GOT SIDETRACKED... IF WE HAVE TO GO UNDER, HE'S A KIND OF PERSON WHO SELLS HIS OWN ORGANS BEFORE FIRING YOU TO GENERATE MONEY. SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT GETTING FIRED, AT ALL.
...
THAT'S THE CURRENT MANAGER?
I HIRED AN EMPLOYEE. SO, I WENT AHEAD AND PROCEEDED WITH THE IDEA OF LAUNCHING A HOST CLUB.
BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE DEBTS?
FINE! I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE ADVANCES YOU NEED. COME WORK FOR ME!!

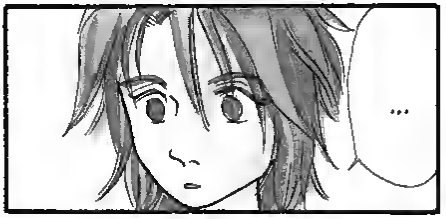
BUT, THAT'S NOT HOW YOU WANNA DO IT, RIGHT?
IF I'M ALLOWED TO DO THAT HERE, I'M WILLING TO DO IT. THAT WAY, YOU CAN MAKE A WHOLE LOT MORE MONEY HERE.
WELL...
I'VE WORKED AT SO MANY CLUBS BEFORE. SO, I KNOW HOW TO MAKE CUSTOMER PONY UP 1M YEN OVERNIGHT.
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D MAKE A FOOL OUT OF SOMEONE, BEFORE HE GOT A CHANCE TO DO THAT TO ME.
I'M NOT SMART... ...I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT. BUT, WHEN SOMEONE CALLS ME A FOOL, IT MAKES ME REALLY MAD.
BUT, THE MANAGER NEVER CALLED ME A FOOL.
HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET.
THEN, I REALIZED...
THIS IS YOUR SEAT


THAT BEING SAID, I KNOW IN THIS WORLD, THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE I DON'T WANNA RESPECT EVEN A BIT.
...BUT, I NEED TO THINK LIKE THAT.
...I THOUGHT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO RESPECT OTHERS... WELL, THAT SOUNDS A BIT TOO SERIOUS...
BECAUSE THIS IS THAT KIND OF PLACE, ISN'T IT?
BUT, WHEN I STEP INTO THIS PLACE, I WANT TO TREAT A CUSTOMER WITH RESPECT.

RIGHT...

BASICALLY, I DON'T WANNA SAY ANYTHING AGAINST WHAT THE MANAGER DOES, BUT...
WHAAAAT? IT WAS A REAL INTERVIEW!?
....I WANTED TO SEE WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU WERE. I'M THE OWNER, AFTER ALL.


GOING, ALREADY?
OK, YOU'VE PASSED THE FINAL INTERVIEW.
YES.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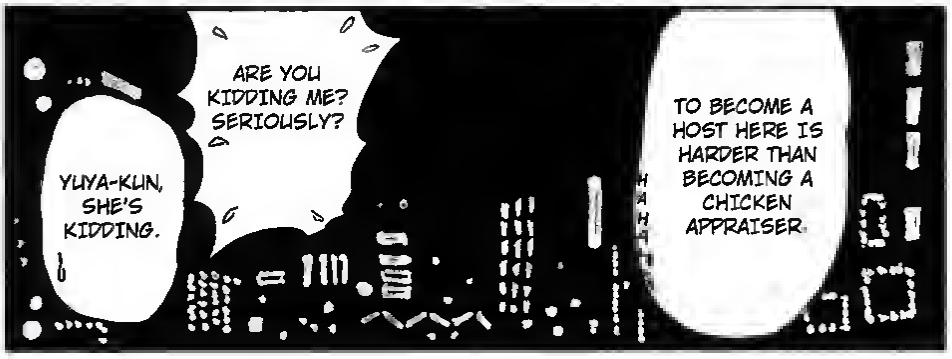
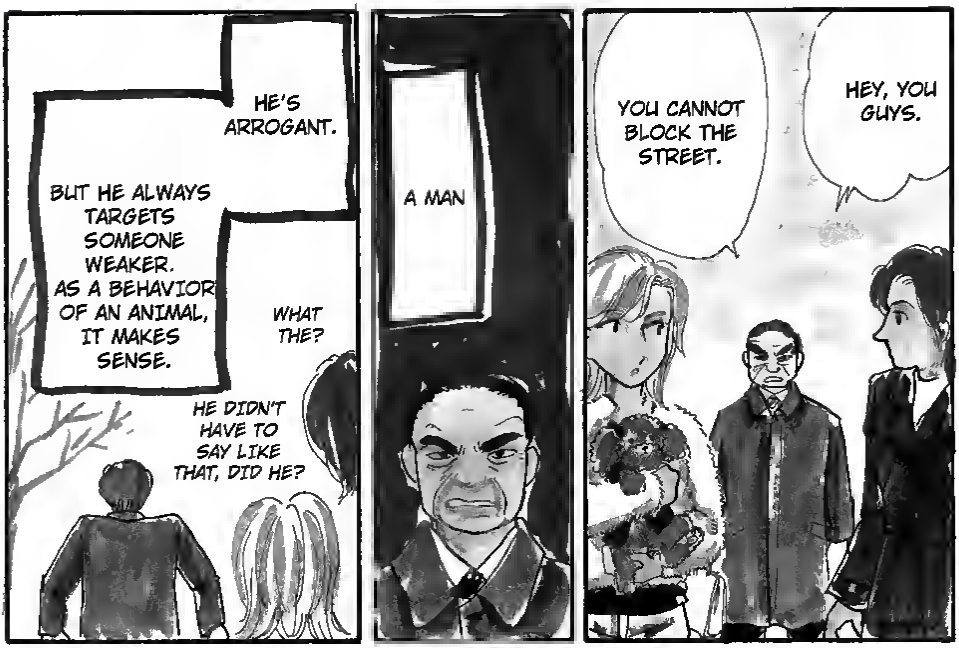
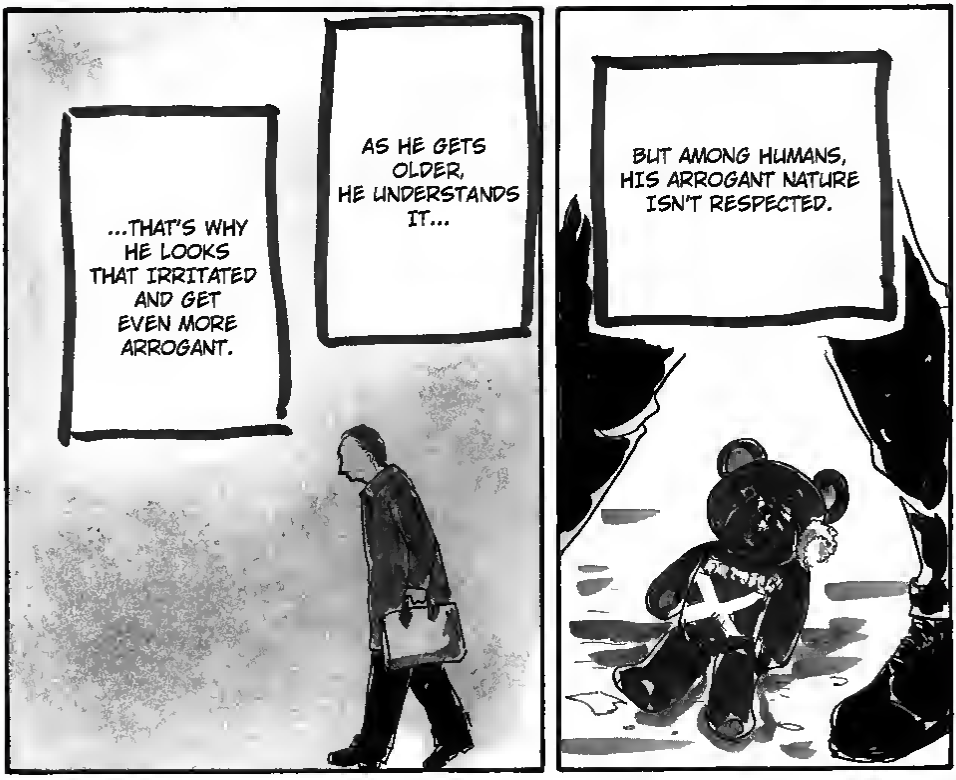

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? SERIOUSLY?
YUYA-KUN, SHE'S KIDDING.
TO BECOME A HOST HERE IS HARDER THAN BECOMING A CHICKEN APPRAISER.

Kumano Nuigurumi

くまのぬいぐるみ
Kuma no Nuigurumi
TEDDY BEAR
I'M A TEDDY BEAR.
I'VE BEEN ABANDONED.
I WAS THROWN AWAY YESTERDAY...
IT WAS A RECYCLING DAY, SO I WASN'T COLLECTED AND LEFT ABANDONED...
CROWS PECKED ON ME AND NOW THE COTTON IS OUT.
回収できません

STOP IT, COCO. IT'S DIRTY.
A DOG
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JUST WALKING MY DOG.
YOUR DOG'S PEEING IN FRONT OF A RESTAURANT. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE HYGIENE OF THE PLACE?
WHAT A DRESS!
I CANNOT HELP BUT BUYING THEM.., THEY FIT HER REALLY WELL, TOO.
SHE'S REGISTERED WITH A MODEL OFFICE
NOOO... THAT DOG ISN'T THAT CUTE.
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER, COCO.
SOOO CUTE!
A DOG MAY BE A FAMILY MEMBER, BUT IT'S NOT YOUR CHILD, ABSOLUTELY NOT.


HE'S ARROGANT.
BUT HE ALWAYS TARGETS SOMEONE WEAKER. AS A BEHAVIOR OF AN ANIMAL, IT MAKES SENSE.
WHAT THE?
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY LIKE THAT, DID HE?
A MAN
YOU CANNOT BLOCK THE STREET.
HEY, YOU GUYS.


...THAT'S WHY HE LOOKS THAT IRRITATED AND GET EVEN MORE ARROGANT.
AS HE GETS OLDER, HE UNDERSTANDS IT...
BUT AMONG HUMANS, HIS ARROGANT NATURE ISN'T RESPECTED.

CUT IT OUT. YOUR CLOTHES WILL GET DIRTY.
ガシ
ガレ
I GOT KICKED BY A KID.
ケリッ
ムッ
THERE'RE PEOPLE WHO TREAT THEIR PETS AS THEIR KIDS; IN CONTRAST, THERE'RE PEOPLE WHO THINK OF THEIR KIDS AS THEIR PETS.
STAND STILL. YOU GOTTA KEEP IT ON. IT MATCHES YOUR SKIRT!
I'M HOOOT!
OHHH, THAT RING LOOKS NICE, TOO.
WHAAAT? I GAVE U A BAG FOR CHRISTMAS.
FOR WHITE DAY?
THAT BAG'S SO CUUUTE. I WANT IT.

...BUT THEY DON'T LOOK CONFIDENT.
YOUNG PEOPLE SPORTING BRAND NAME BAGS AND JEWERIES...
I'M A TEDDY BEAR.
I LISTEN TO A CHILD'S SECRETS...
...SOAK UP TEARS OF DISAPPO-INTMENTS AND...
...I'M A TEDDY BEAR THAT SLEEPS WITH A CHILD ON A SAD NIGHT.

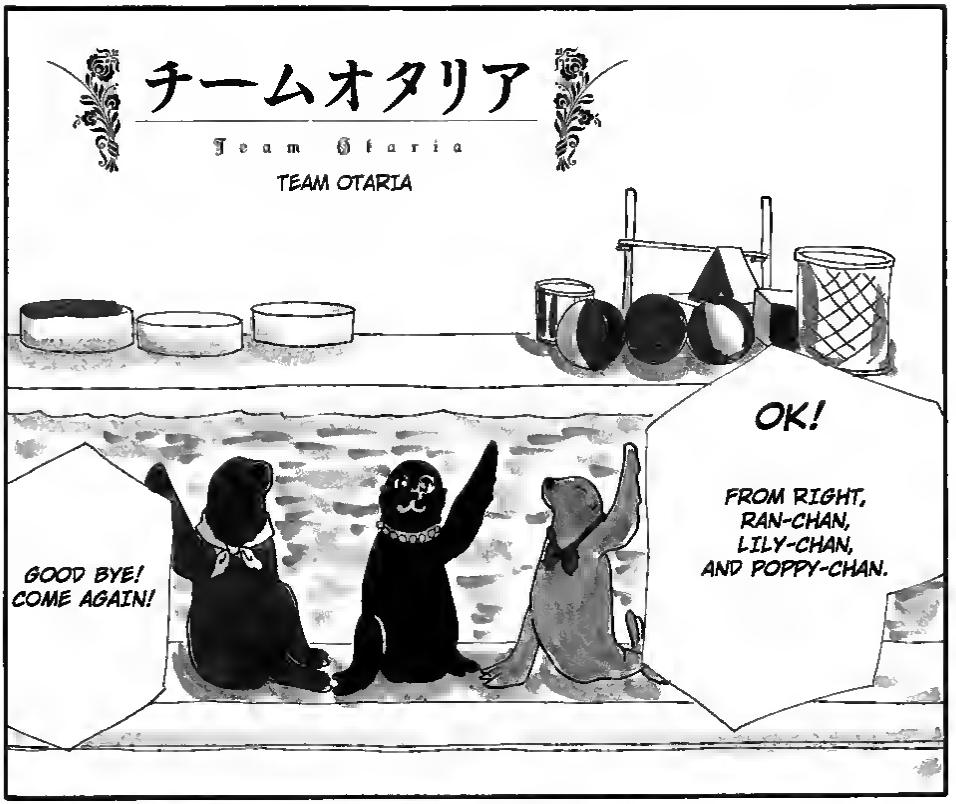
AS THE CHILD GROWS OLDER...
...HE'LL BE LAUGHED AT IF HE KEEPS TALKING TO THE TEDDY BEAR AND SLEEPING WITH IT.
THEN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, I'M THROWN AWAY.

PEOPLE SEEM TO BE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE,
EVEN THOUGH THEY TRASHED ME, BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T THINK THEY'D NEED ME, ANY LONGER.

IT'S LYING ON THE GROUND....
THE TEDDY BEAR YOU SHARED YOUR SECRETS WITH...

古道具
もみの木
ANTIQUE STORE
MOMINOKI
I LISTEN TO YOUR STORIES PATIENTLY...
FOREVER AND EVER.
THE TEDDY BEAR IN THE SHOW WINDOW...
HE-LLO!
OH, YES YES.
I'M A TEDDY BEAR.
AFTER WASHING IT, IT LOOKS LIKE AN ANTIQUE BEAR BY STEIFF.
I WAS WASHED. BUT I WISHED I HAD BEEN WASHED BY HAND...
I WAS WASHED IN A WASHING MACHINE.
SHE USED A NET, THOUGH

Team Otaria


チームオタリア
Team Otaria
TEAM OTARIA
OK!
FROM RIGHT, RAN-CHAN, LILY-CHAN, AND POPPY-CHAN.
GOOD BYE! COME AGAIN!

YOU FAILED THE BALL SEGMENT AGAIN. CAN YOU DO ANY BETTER?
BUT, THE AUDIENCE SEEMED TO LIKE IT.

楽屋
HEY, POPPY-CHAN...

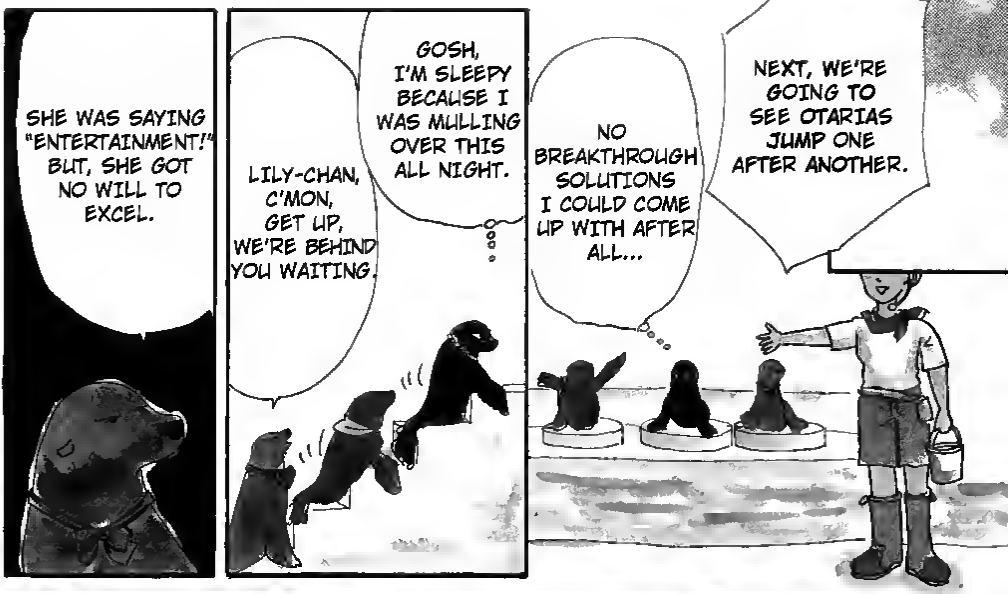
AFTER THE OTARIA SHOW, THERE'S A DOLPHIN SHOW AT 3 O'CLOCK AT THE SAME PLACE. PLEASE COME SEE IT!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? MORE PEOPLE THINK THAT WE PERFORM A SEAL SHOW.
WE ARE ARTISTS THAT SHOW OUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE TO OUR AUDIENCES.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
WE'RE NOT COMEDIANS.
UUU UU...
COMPARED TO THEM, WE ARE COMEDIANS, AFTER ALL.
ALMOST THE CLIMAX!
DOLPHIN MASTERS ARE QUITE POPULAR TODAY AGAIN, AREN'T THEY?
RAN-CHAN, YOU HAVE NO WILL TO PERFORM.
GOOD WORK!
GOOD JOB, DOLPHIN-MASTERS!
HAVE YOU HEARD?
A KILLER WHALE'S GONNA COME TO THIS AQUARIUM.
OF COURSE.
I FELT YOUR SPIRIT TODAY AGAIN.

YOU'D BEITER STOP THINKING IN TERMS OF COMEDY.
A SOLO PERFORMER!
NOW'S THE HAY DAY!
JUST ONE BECAUSE OF A BUDGET.
HOW MANY?
REALLY?
WHEN THEY BUILT A POOL FOR SEA OTTERS, OUR FOOD GOT TWICE AS SMALL. IT'S GONNA GET EVEN SMALLER?
OF COURSE, THEY'LL MAKE ONE FOR IT.
EVEN WITH ONE KILLER WHALE, IT'LL BE QUITE BIG. I WONDER HOW THEY'LL DECIDE HOW TO ALLOCATE GREENROOMS.
YOU GUYS, BETTER WATCH OUT.
THAT'S NOT EVEN A QUESTION. I HEARD SOMEONE MAY BE TRANSFERRED.
WE'RE ALWAYS MISTAKEN FOR SEALS, SO MAYBE WE SHOULD BECOME THEM. SEALS ARE SMALLER AND EAT LESS.
BEING ECONOMICAL.
WHY???

IMPRESSIVE! WITHOUT DIRTYING THEIR OWN HANDS, HANDLE THINGS UNDER-HANDEDLY.
FOR NOW, I CONTACTED A KILLER WHALE PROTECTION GROUP TO INDUCE A PROTEST.
OH, NOOOO. DOLPHIN MASTER, DO SOMETHING!!
マリンランド
DON'T CARE. THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.
NOPE.
NOPE? YOU DON'T CARE IF YOU GOT TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AQUARIUM?
OK, THEN, LET'S ACT LIKE WE'RE SICK.
FORGET YOU. RAN-CHAN. GOT ANY BETTER IDEA?
A PROTEST MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING, TOO.
AN OTARIA THAT DOESN'T WORK WILL BE CHANGED TO A SEAL RIGHT AWAY.
YEEESSS! WE'LL GO ON A STRIKE!

VISITORS DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE PLAY WITH A BALL ON OUR NOSES BECAUSE WE WANT TO.
WHETHER OR NOT THERE'RE VISITORS, WE DO WHAT WE DO, NOT BECAUSE WE WANNA GIVE THEM A GOOD TIME, BUT BECAUSE WE WANNA FISH!
YOU'RE WRONG! AN UNPOPULAR AQUARIUM HAS AGED FACILITIES, AND FEEDS YOU AWFUL FOOD. NO VISITORS DURING WEEKDAYS. IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL DISCOURAGED.
THAT WAS A BIT TOO HARSH, RAN-CHAN,
LILY-CHAN...
CRYING?
THAT'S THE SHOW!
THAT'S THE ENTER-TAINMENT!!
EVEN IF THAT'S A LIE, EVEN IF THAT'S A FLASH OF GLORY. JUST WE'LL HAVE FUN AT THIS POOL!!
THAT'S FINE.


SHE WAS SAYING "ENTERTAINMENT!" BUT, SHE GOT NO WILL TO EXCEL.
LILY-CHAN, C'MON, GET UP, WE'RE BEHIND YOU WAITING.
GOSH, I'M SLEEPY BECAUSE I WAS MULLING OVER THIS ALL NIGHT.
NO BREAKTHROUGH SOLUTIONS I COULD COME UP WITH AFTER ALL...
NEXT, WE'RE GOING TO SEE OTARIAS JUMP ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

STOP YOU TWO AT SUCH A NARROW SPACE.
ALL YOU DO IS JUST TALK LILY!!
WHAT THE... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

AHH..
DON'T STOP ME, POPPY-CHAN!!

どぼぉん
KERPLUNK
POPPY CHAN!!
H...
HELP!!
ごぼっ
ごぼっ
SWIMMING RING! GIVE ME A SWIMMING RING!!
YOU KNOW WHAT...
WE'RE ALL OTARIAS...
OH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...
ぷかーっ

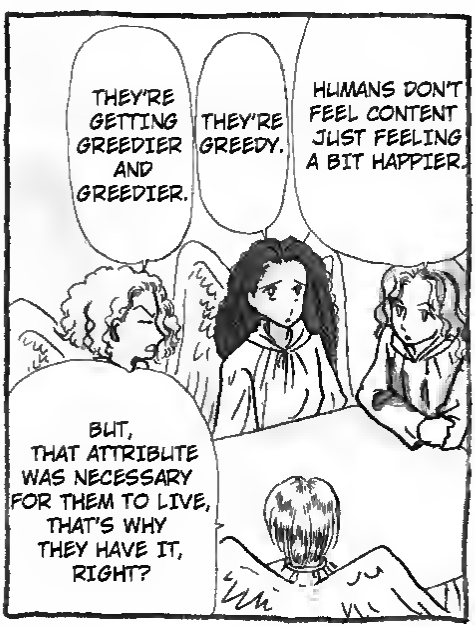
FOR A SECOND, I GOT SUPER PANICKY AND THOUGHT I WAS DROWNING...
OTARIAS NEVER DROWN!!!
SMACK
マリンランド
LATELY, FISH HAS GOTTEN BIGGER, SO I'M CONTENT.
PEOPLE LOVE US!
OUR NEW JABBING PIECE WAS A BIG HIT AGAIN TODAY.
YOU GUYS HAVE MASTERED IT, HUH

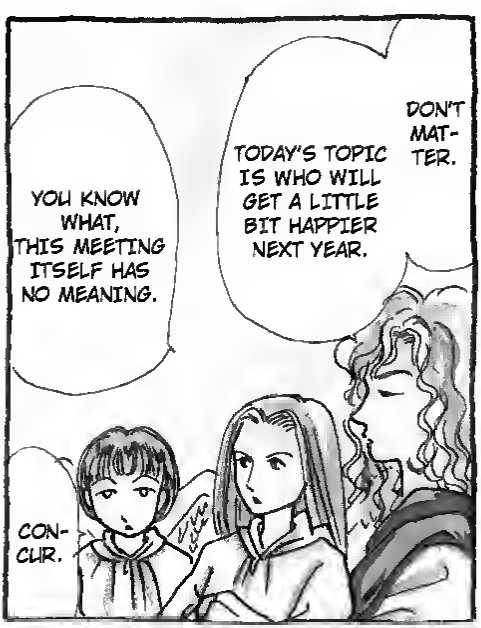
Tenshi Kaigi

天使会議

Tenshi Kaigi

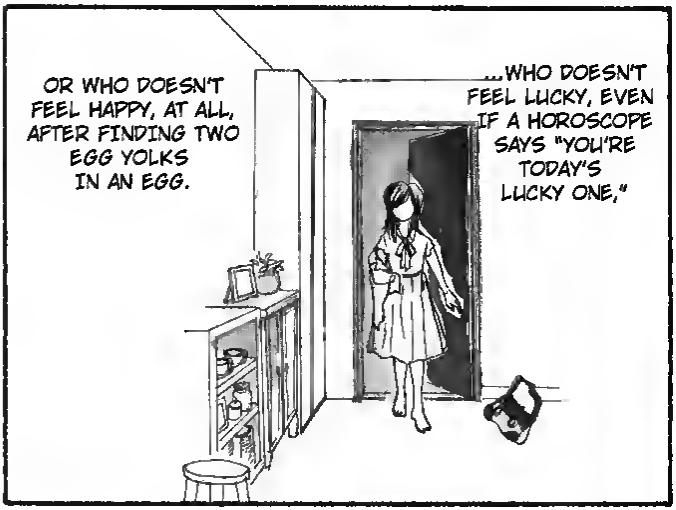
THE MEETING OF ANGELES


THEY'RE GETTING GREEDIER AND GREEDIER.
THEY'RE GREEDY.
HUMANS DON'T FEEL CONTENT JUST FEELING A BIT HAPPIER.
BUT, THAT ATTRIBUTE WAS NECESSARY FOR THEM TO LIVE, THAT'S WHY THEY HAVE IT, RIGHT?


YOU KNOW WHAT, THIS MEETING ITSELF HAS NO MEANING.
TODAY'S TOPIC IS WHO WILL GET A LITTLE BIT HAPPIER NEXT YEAR.
DON'T MATTER.
CONCUR.

NO, WE CANNOT STOP IT!
UH...
YEAH?
WANNA STOP IT?
LIMIT-LESS.
ITS LIMIT NECESSARY FOR LIFE HAS BEEN WAY PASSED.

REPORT IT.
WHO'S YOUR RESPON-SIBILITY?
NOT ACTING LIKE ONE.
OH, YEAH? A TRAINEE SPOKE.


OR WHO DOESN'T FEEL HAPPY, AT ALL, AFTER FINDING TWO EGG YOLKS IN AN EGG.
...WHO DOESN'T FEEL LUCKY, EVEN IF A HOROSCOPE SAYS "YOU'RE TODAY'S LUCKY ONE,"

A HUMAN I'M WORKING ON NOW IS THIS ONE WHO...

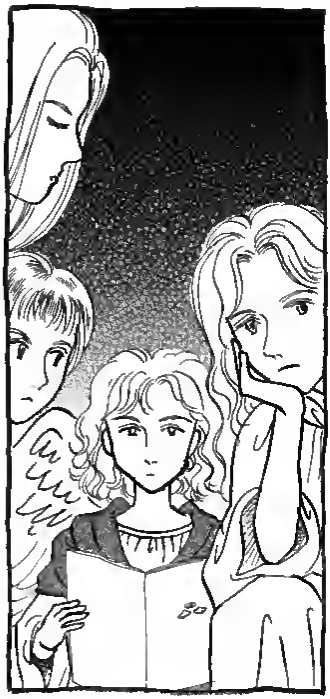
...SHE TREASURED IT AND PLACED IT IN HER JEWELRY BOX.

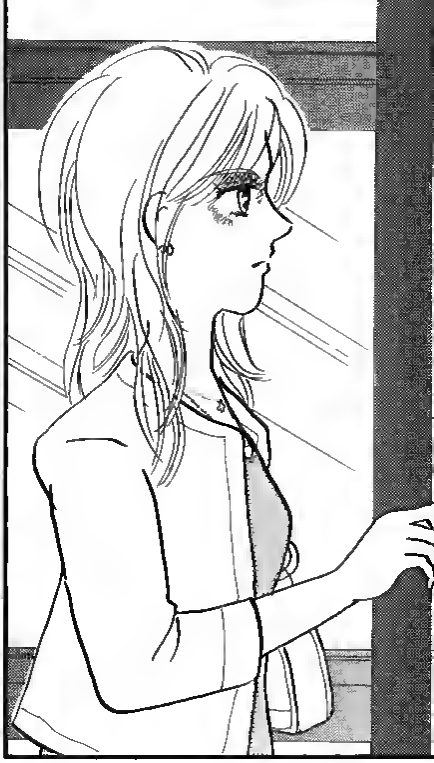
SHE WAS SO HAPPY WHEN SHE WON A PLASTIC RING AT A FESTIVAL BOOTH AS A CHILD, AND...

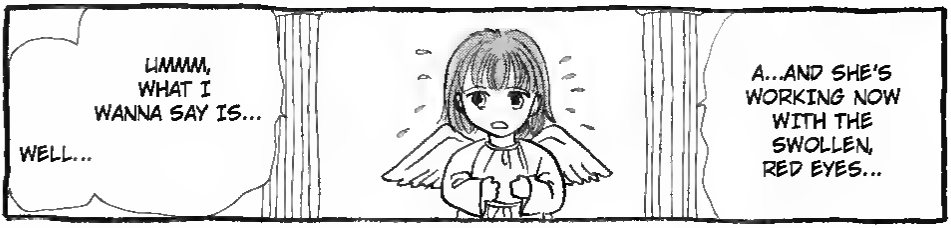
SHE HAS JUST BROKEN UP WITH HER BOYFRIEND.
ON THE CONTRARY...
IN HER CURRENT JEWELRY BOX CONTAINS MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS...
...BUT, SHE DOESN'T SEEM HAPPY, AT ALL...
WHAAAT!!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "HAPPY"?
WAHHHHHH
WHAT HE SAID LAST WAS "BECOME HAPPY."
"BE HAPPY"? WHAT THE! YOU, MORON!!!

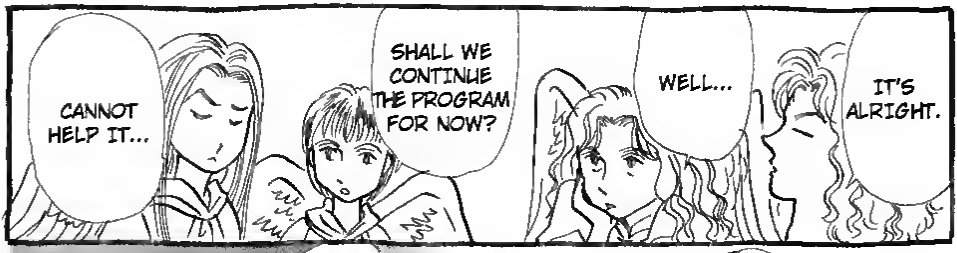
BUT, REAL HAPPINESS IS...
...REAL HAPPINESS IS...
SHE DOESN'T THINK REAL HAPPINESS IS WHAT SHE'S HAVING NOW.
SHE'S TOO LOOKING FOR HAPPINESS.
YES, I AGREE.
OH, NO!!!! I LOOK AWFUL!!
WHAT? GOING TO WORK?
OMG! I'VE SLEPT OVER!!
バタ
バタ
UP NOW?
ぱち

BUS DRIVER, THERE'S ANOTHER ONE WANTING TO HOP ON.
出口
POKE POKE
ちょん ちょん
ARE YOU GONNA RUN?
WAAAIT! PLEASE! BUS, STOP!
ブオー
EXE... EXCUSE ME. THANK YOU.
ぷしゅー
ワンマン
OH, DON'T MEN-TION IT.
ARE YOU OK?
はあ
はあ はあ
THANKS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YOU MADE MY DAY.

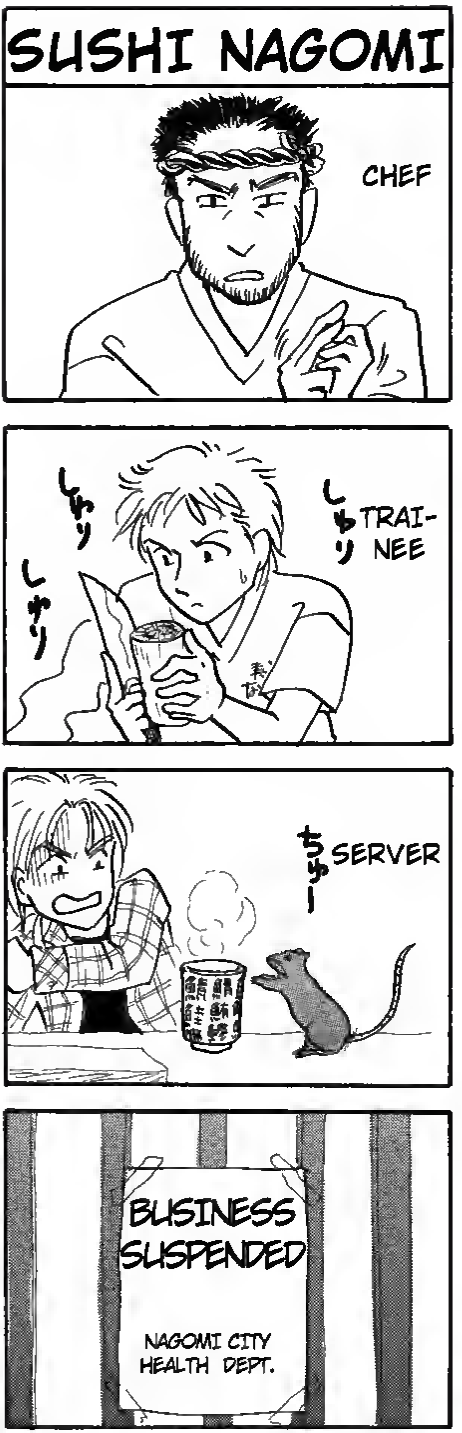





UMMM, WHAT I WANNA SAY IS...
WELL...
A...AND SHE'S WORKING NOW WITH THE SWOLLEN, RED EYES...


CANNOT HELP IT...
SHALL WE CONTINUE THE PROGRAM FOR NOW?
WELL...
IT'S ALRIGHT.

OK.
NO NEED FOR THAT NOW.
OK, THEN, THE 540...


SUSHI NAGOMI
CHEF
しゃり
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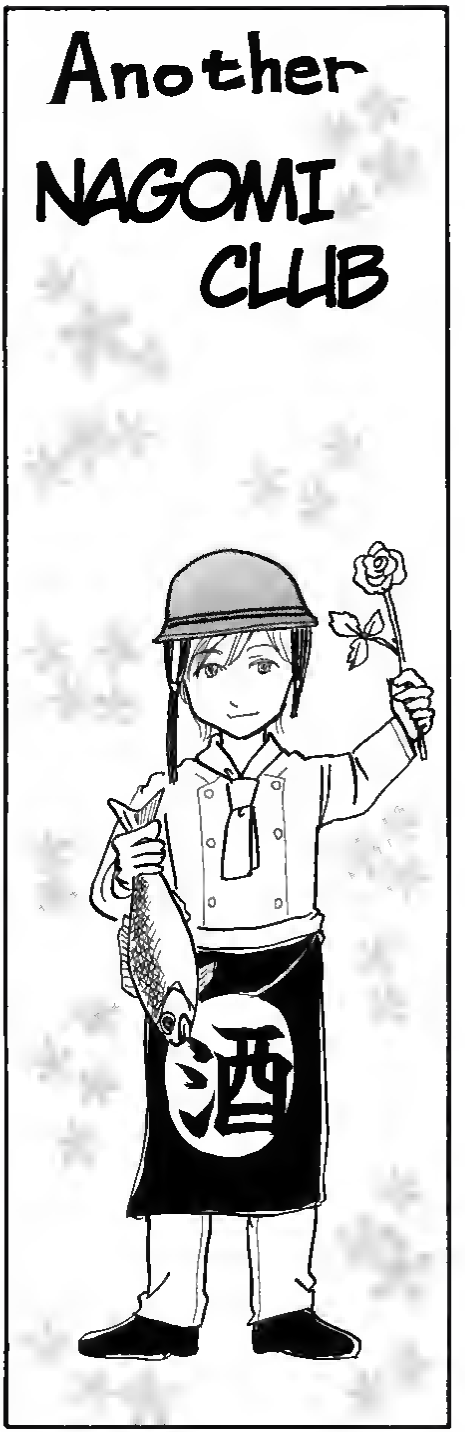
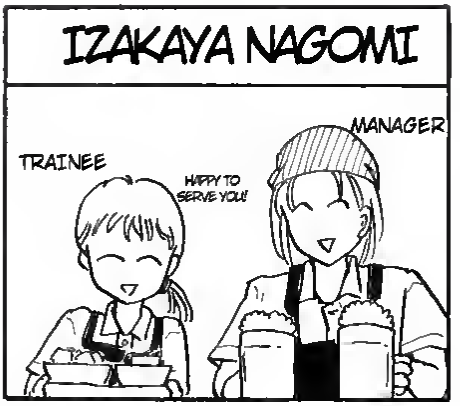
TRAI-
NEE
ちゅー
SERVER
BUSINESS
SUSPENDED
NAGOMI CITY
HEALTH DEPT.


Another
NAGOMI
CLUB
酒

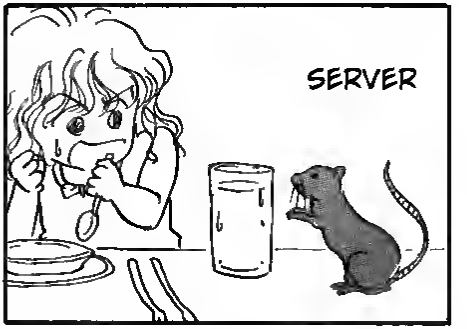

IZAKAYA NAGOMI
TRAINEE
HAPPY TO SERVE YOU!
MANAGER

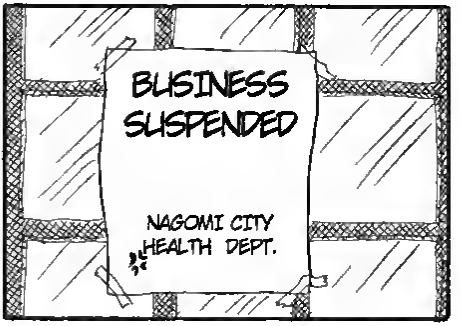
RESTAURANT NAGOMI
CHEF

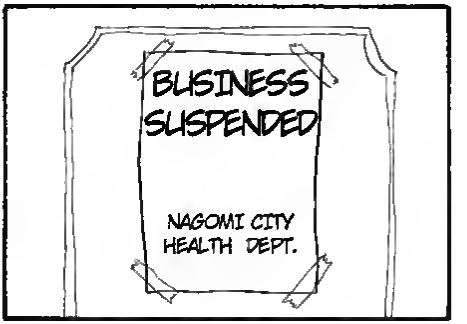
ORDER #5, FRIED CHICKEN'S READY!
KITCHEN

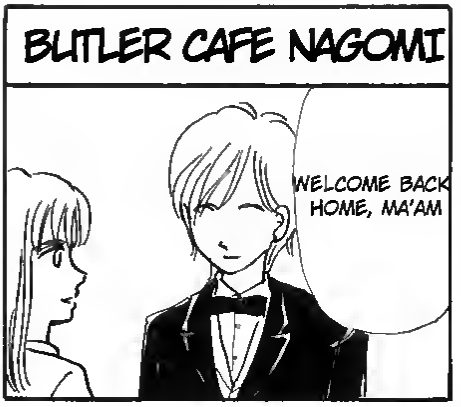
TRAINEE

THAT'S EVEN WORSE!!
BUT HE'S PART OF OUR TEAM. IF HE CANNOT BE OUT THERE, THEN LET HIM BE IN THE KITCHEN!
C'MON. TOLD YOU, NO MOUSE HERE!

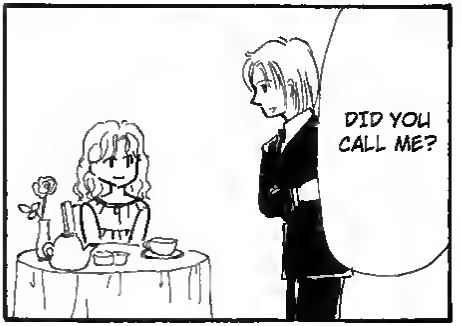

SERVER

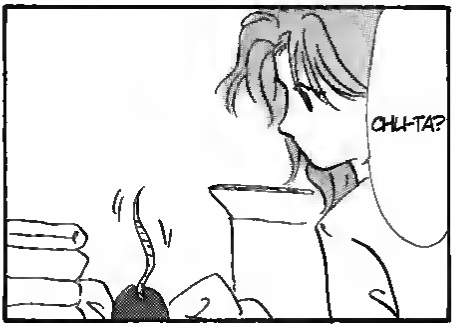

BUSINESS SUSPENDED
NAGOMI CITY HEALTH DEPT.

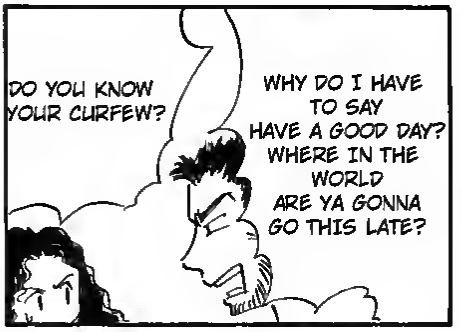

BUSINESS SUSPENDED
NAGOMI CITY HEALTH DEPT.


BUTLER CAFE NAGOMI
WELCOME BACK HOME, MA'AM

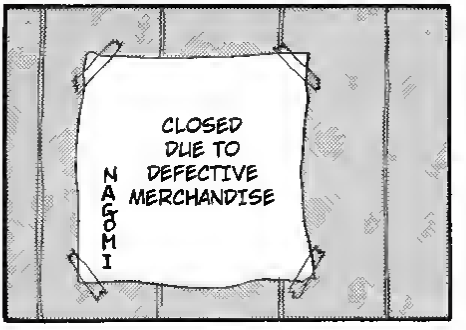
SELECT SHOP NAGOMI
I LOVE SECOND HAND CLOTHES. WE'LL MAKE IT TOGETHER, OK, CHU-TA?
WE CANNOT RUN A DINER, YOU KNOW, CHU-TA.


DID YOU CALL ME?

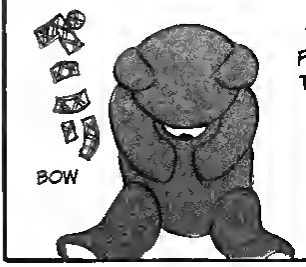

CHU-TA?


DO YOU KNOW YOUR CURFEW?
WHY DO I HAVE TO SAY HAVE A GOOD DAY? WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YA GONNA GO THIS LATE?

VACANCY
CONTACT NAGOMI REAL ESTATE AGENCY
TEL 123-4567


CLOSED DUE TO DEFECTIVE MERCHANDISE
NAGOMI

AFTERWARD



THANK YOU FOR BUYING THIS BOOK.

IT TOOK A WHILE BEFORE IT BECAME A BOOK BECAUSE IT CONSISTED OF SHORT 6-8 PAGE STORIES.

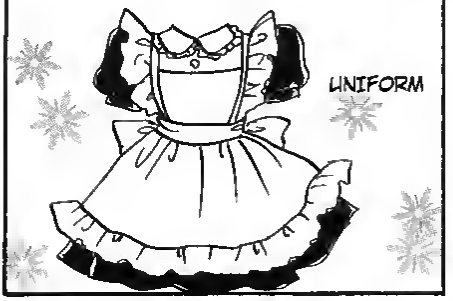
ON THE SAME DAY WHEN THIS BOOK WILL BE RELEASED, SEP. 12, 2008, THREE OTHER BOOKS WILL BE PUBLISHED, TOO.

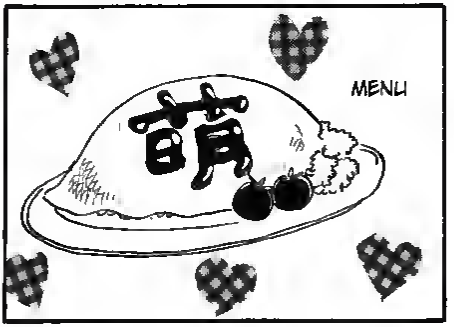
"AFTERNOON TEA AT A FAIRY LAND" BY SHODENSHA

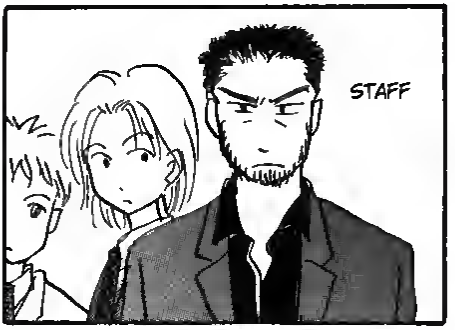
"WATCH OUT FOR WOLVES" VOL.1 & 2 BY HAKUSENSHA BUNKO

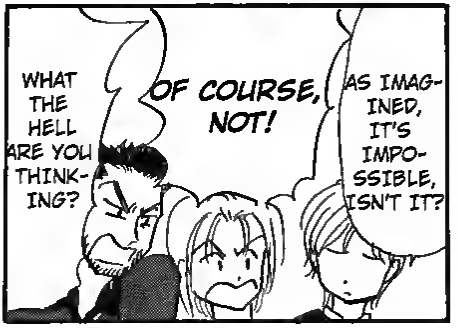
THE OTHER THREE BOOKS WILL HAVE THE CAST OF NAGOMI CLUB, TOO.

MAID CAFE NAGOMI









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